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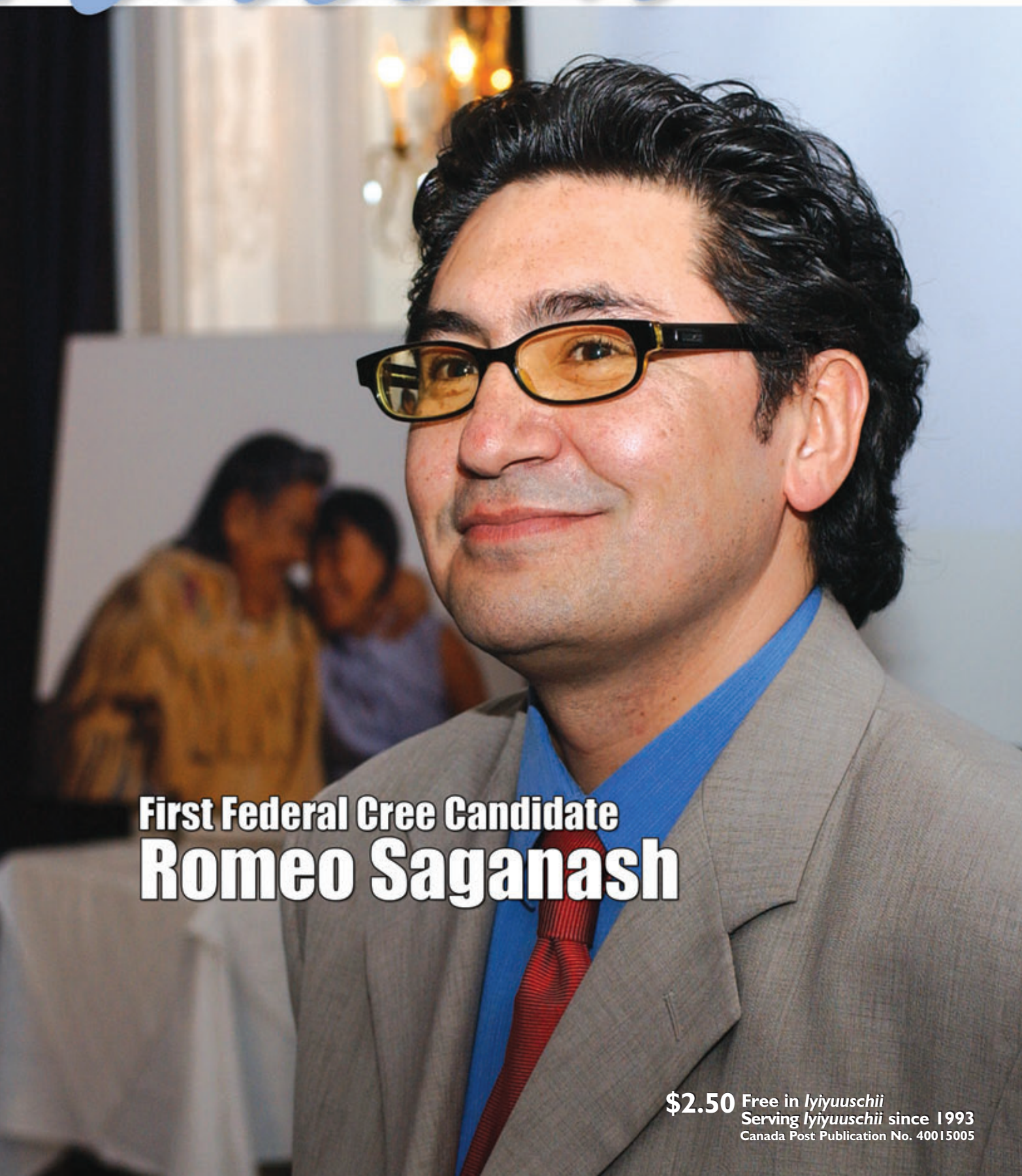

First Federal Cree Candidate
Romeo Saganash

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Make the vote count

By Will Nicholls

Crees, Inuit and other First Nations traditionally don't really vote as much as other residents of either the Abitibi–Baie-James–Nunavik–Eeyou or the Timmins-James Bay ridings. The times though are changing.

Romeo Saganash, a Cree from Waswanipi, has tossed his hat into the ring as the NDP candidate hoping to win the Abitibi–Baie-James–Nunavik–Eeyou riding in northern Quebec. He is the first Cree to run for federal office.

I strongly and without reservation urge all the chiefs and especially the Grand Council to support Saganash publicly. Your voices mean something to the Cree people and there is no excuse to not make history. Make no mistake this is a historical moment and when history stares you in the face it is time to step forward and do your part.

Personally, as editor-in-chief, I applaud Saganash and support him. I was proud to see this man step forward and say he was willing to take on the duties and responsibilities of representing all residents of the North.

Saganash is looking to work within the institutions that have affected the Cree culture, way of life, traditions and the land that made us what we are. It is time to add a strong Cree voice to the decisions made that concern all First Nations. Saganash, himself, said he has the experience, the knowledge and the will to work for all residents in the territory.

People are tired of having the same old choices, Saganash said. "People tell me they've been waiting for the right person when they stop on the street in Val-d'Or." He said his support is strong and it shows people have seen his commitment to building relationships between all peoples in the riding.

Saganash said his decision to become a NDP candidate was easy. "Harper scares me, the Liberals lack leadership and the NDP has a great platform that I agree with. Jack Layton pushed to have the UN Declaration adopted by Canada. I've met him, like him and think he's a good man."

Saganash feels the Cree will come out and vote in this election. If so, they will make a difference as the riding has 80,894 eligible voters and the Cree Nation as a whole makes up over 9,000 of that total.

Though Saganash wants to run a positive campaign I have to question Elections Canada's actions. No Cree community other than Chisasibi will have advance polls while non-Native communities will. Even Radisson, a community of approximately 300 people, will have advance polls. Almost every Cree community has a larger population.

This doesn't seem to be a new relationship to me but the same old biases are crawling out of the woodwork. To ensure everyone in a non-Native community of 300 will have the opportunity to vote while denying the same possibility to all members of a different race is reprehensible.

It reminds me of the story of Rosa Parks. She was a Black woman who refused to give up her seat and go to the back of the bus in the US when racial segregation was a reality. Her actions went a long way to change that. I know, for some of our communities, families plan to be out in the bush for goose break on voting day May 2, but isn't it time we refused to go to the back of the bus?

Find a way to vote and show that being Cree doesn't mean being left out.

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This vote's for you

By Sonny Orr

As I summon up all the memories that I have about elections, one thing is certain – Canadians either love to vote, hate to vote, or just don't care about the vote for an upcoming election, it all depends on who you talk to. The people I know don't seem to care about who wins, as long as they get what they want from the elected officials. So, I've composed a wish list of things I want politicians to do if they actually listened to me, the voter.

1) Don't deny everything that went wrong in the past, just bring it up and confess before you think of running. First of all, it would probably perk up a few ears to learn just what you have to get out of your system and into the mainstream media system. Don't forget, today, it takes seconds for the ugly truths to come out on any social network and be disseminated around the world, so be honest and tell the truth.

2) Don't be afraid to face the music, if you don't like what happens after the election turns in your favour and you actually win. Remember, most people will either look up to you to work your ass off for them and the favours you promised or the majority will find flaws in you and your life in general. Some politicians fear this scenario and hide from the public. But hey, once a politician becomes an elected official, you are a public figure. Many people have voted just to make sure that what they want or need is carried out by a strong leader, not someone who has to hide every time something suspicious pops up about your past or current doings.

3) Try not to make enemies of your constituents. After all, it is they who will get you in there if you are on their side.

4) Put a person behind that smiling face on every telephone post. People like to know that you are a real person.

5) Most of all, try to get people to come out and vote, since most do not vote, due either to apathy or they just don't know whose face is on the poster.

6) Create diversions from your competition to look towards you. If it is confrontational, then play the game with the competitor. People like a good nasty verbal outlet, so the harder you froth at the mouth during heated debates, the more convincing you are. Just make sure what you're raving about concerns the general public and not world domination, for example.

7) Don't be afraid of the things that can't hurt you and do be afraid of those little things that will come back to haunt you, like previous firings, election fraud, voter bribery, thuggery, any organized crime figures or their escorts, a black leather Harley fetish or previously lobbying for that strip joint which just so happens to be conveniently down the street from your office.

8) Do change your clothes to prove that you can support your own taste in apparel, otherwise, your look will be timelessly enshrined in everyone's memories as that plaid-shirt dude.

9) Don't forget every vote counts, even yours. You could be a tie-breaker in your own election campaign.

10) This year, show up and vote. Vote for the party that will best suit your needs, not the party's needs.

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A worthy recognition

Neil Diamond's Reel Injun picks up a prestigious Peabody Award

By Martin Siberok

After a successful year on the international film-festival circuit and brief theatrical runs in several major Canadian cities, *Reel Injun: On the Trail of the Hollywood Indian* keeps making headlines.

On April 1, filmmaker Neil Diamond and the production crew at Rezolution Films heard the unbelievable news that *Reel Injun* had won a Peabody Award.

This prestigious award is given to the best work produced in electronic media – be it radio, television or cable – by the University of Georgia's Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication in Athens, Georgia.

Diamond was in New York City when he received the news and was completely elated, though he did experience a moment of doubt. "It was such great news, but towards the end of the day I realized it was April Fools' Day and I started to wonder if somebody was playing a prank on me. As it turned out, nobody was."

Diamond admitted that he knew little about the Peabody Awards before winning one. "I didn't know much other than it was a coveted prize. So I checked out --their website and saw the names of the previous winners – All In The Family, MASH, Roots, John Stewart. They were all groundbreaking programs and stuff I liked to watch."

Checking out all the winners in the Peabody's 70-year history, Diamond said he only found one other Native winner, a Navaho radio station in New Mexico in 1954. "And there aren't that many Canadian winners either. The CBC has won several, the NFB a couple and so did Peter Gzowski – so I'm in pretty good company."

This year there are two Canadian recipients among the 39 Peabody winners; the other one is the high-school drama *Degrassi*, which won for a two-part episode about a transgender teen.

Diamond is certainly happy with the success of *Reel Injun*, which examines how Hollywood movies have depicted and misrepresented Native Americans throughout the 20th century.

"I never expected it. The initial idea was to do a funny, half-hour documentary possibly for APTN. Then it turned into a much larger project and became a huge success that's taken me around the world to places like Australia, New Zealand, Finland and now South Korea."

Everywhere *Reel Injun* is screened, the film gets a great response. "It's the humour that does it. There are a lot of funny things in the story of how Hollywood has portrayed Native Americans over the years. Of course, it could have been a serious and even angry documentary, but that would have turned people off."

Seeing that the reaction to the film has been overwhelmingly positive, one wonders if anything negative has ever been published. "As far as I know it's gotten two bad reviews, both from New York papers, the Village Voice and Time Out. But I didn't care because that same weekend, the New York Times ran its review and they really liked it."

The actual Peabody Awards ceremony will take place May 23 at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York and will be hosted by Larry King. Asked if he'll be attending, Diamond said it's quite an expensive affair and nothing been worked out yet.

This won't be the first time that *Reel Injun* has been feted. Last November, the documentary picked up three top prizes at the 25th Annual Gemini Awards in Toronto: Best Direction in a Documentary Program, Best Visual Research and the Canada Award, which is given to films that promote awareness of Canada's racial and cultural diversity.

In light of *Reel Injun*'s success, one wonders if there will be a sequel? Diamond laughed and said there's been some thought about *Reel Injun Part II*. "It's such a rich subject, and there was so much that we couldn't put into the film. We left a lot of things out – the 'Red Westerns' from East Germany, the German fascination with Native Americans, the Czech Indian camps. We even discovered a place in Thailand where the Thai go and dress up as cowboys and Indians. So there could very well be a sequel."

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Science fair successes

Cree girls from Eastmain and Mistissini come home winners from the QASEA science fair in Kawawachikamach

By Amy German

Congratulations are in order for Eastmain's Raven Mark and Mistissini's Amy Mattawashish and Roberta Polson-Blacksmith as all three returned home winners from the 2011 Quebec Aboriginal Science and Engineering Association (QASEA) Science Fair provincial finals held on the Naskapi Kawawachikamach reserve March 22-23.

Twelve-year-old Mark, who is in Secondary 1, claimed third prize in the Secondary 1 category for her project entitled, "What is the Acidity in People Saliva?"

Mark said it felt good to win third prize at the science fair but when asked about what she remember most about the event, she responded, "It was crowded." At the same time, she said it was a lot of fun.

Mark presented to the public that it is important to keep one's saliva in balance and that this can easily be done by keeping the right diet.

"If you don't, you might get a lot of diseases," said Mark.

Nutrition is very important to Mark.

"She is a very talented girl and this has a very positive impact on the school because everyone gets to celebrate the success and so everyone feels really proud and uplifted," said Megan Fullerton, Mark's Secondary 1 teacher. "I think it is incredible for student self-esteem and confidence building because they say to themselves that they can do this."

Secondary 4 students Mattawashish and Polson-Blacksmith managed to claim second prize at the provincial finals for their project entitled, "The Effects of Smoking."

While both girls were beaming due to their recent win, they also talked about how much they enjoyed the entire experience of being away with children from other First Nations throughout the province. Polson-Blacksmith said what really impressed her was how much talent she saw at the fair from so many First Nations youth from across the province.

"We chose our project because we wanted to send a message to the youth. We know that smoking kills but we wanted to give more information to people on what they will face in the future if they smoke and how it ruins the body.

"We mostly talked about the project but we showed a model of tar on the lungs. It was just a model though; we couldn't get a real one," she said.

Mattawashish said that to do the project they had to give lung capacity tests to other youth to show the immediate effects of smoking.

"The test showed that some of them really weren't healthy and had a low lung capacity. Some people were really freaked out when they saw what it looks like inside the lungs with the tar," said Mattawashish.

Jessica Mitchell, the guidance counselor in Kawawachikamach who was one of the main organizers for the event, said

that 57 youth from 13 different communities participated in the event.

"We were really proud of all of the projects and even our kids here in Kawawachikamach did really well. We have not been participating in the fair for very long, maybe five years, and so it was great to see this be such a success.

"One of the major prize winners, Jenna Dumont from Kitigan Zibi, did her project on scoliosis and she actually has scoliosis and so that was very touching to see also," said Mitchell.

And, with any hope, perhaps these winners or even those who got to see these projects may just have been inspired enough by them to continue following the path of science or engineering into a future career.

THE BUILD-UP OF A SUCCESS STORY

Here's an overview of training programs developed by the Cégep St-Félicien and the Collegial Studies Center of Chibougamau in collaboration with Cree Human Resources Development - CHRD.

CREE HOSPITALITY — RESTAURANT RENO — LIVE FROM WASWANIPI

This April, students attending the "SUPERVISION OF HOSPITALITY SERVICES IN NATIVE COMMUNITIES" training will move into the building formerly known as Valerie's Restaurant. The present building owner, Eeyou Economic Group/CFDC Inc. has signed a collaboration agreement with Centre d'études collégiales à Chibougamau in order to let the students carry on their training in this restaurant. This program aims to give native communities skilled manpower in order to enhance the management level of service industry businesses.

By moving into these new facilities, students will have access to a fully equiped professional kitchen. The restaurant lobby will be transformed into a classroom as well as a computer lab. Once the students gain the appropriate knowledge on cooking and kitchen management, occasional light meals will be served at Valerie's Restaurant for the enjoyment of Waswanipi's residents and visitors.

By signing this collaboration agreement, Eeyou Economic Group/CFDC Inc. wants to pursue its commitment to community development and social involvement. This present establishment will be for sale next fall.

This training program is a joint venture between the Service aux entreprises et aux collectivités du Cégep de St-Félicien / Centre d'études collégiales de Chibougamau and Cree Human Resources Development (CHRD). Students start their training February 2011 and will complete this curriculum by May 2012.

11-year-old Aboriginal boy tased by RCMP in BC

First Nations leadership in British Columbia is calling for an independent investigation into why the RCMP decided to tase an 11-year-old special-needs child after he attacked a staff member in his care facility.

The boy was being cared for in a special facility where he had two caregivers who monitored him 24 hours a day when the RCMP was called in after the boy stabbed a 37-year-old staff member.

The Taser was deployed after the boy was found on a neighbouring property during his arrest on April 7.

The RCMP's actions are being called into question as the detective who deployed the weapon only had a year-and-a-half experience on the job

Bolivians want UN to grant "Mother Earth" rights as a human being

Led by Indigenous President Evo Morales, Bolivia has drawn up documents to have "Mother Earth" recognized under the same rights as individuals at the United Nations. Such rights would include the right to life, to pure water and clean air.

The ploy is geared at getting the UN to recognize that the planet is a living entity that man has sought to "dominate and exploit".

According to Britain's Daily Mail, the treaty is looking to establish 11 new natural rights for the planet that would include: "the right to life and to exist; the right to continue vital cycles and processes free from human alteration; the right to pure water and clean air; the right to balance; the right not to be polluted; and the right to not have cellular structure modified or genetically altered."

CSB public-speaking winners awarded in Oujé

The Cree School Board held its annual Regional Public Speaking Competition Final on April 13 in Oujé-Bougoumou. There were a total of 15 high-school students who participated in the event in three separate language categories: English, French and Cree.

According to Rachel Bush, the 2011 winners are:

English category: 1st place, Summer Twenish of Chisasibi; 2nd place, Desire Ottereyes of Wemindji; 3rd place, Dora Sheshamush of Whapmagoostui; and a consolation prize went to Carlton Bobbish of Nemaska.

Cree category: 1st place, Sarah Audlarock of Whapmagoostui; 2nd place, Amanda Katapatuk of Wemindji; and 3rd place Shaone Shecapio from Oujé-Bougoumou.

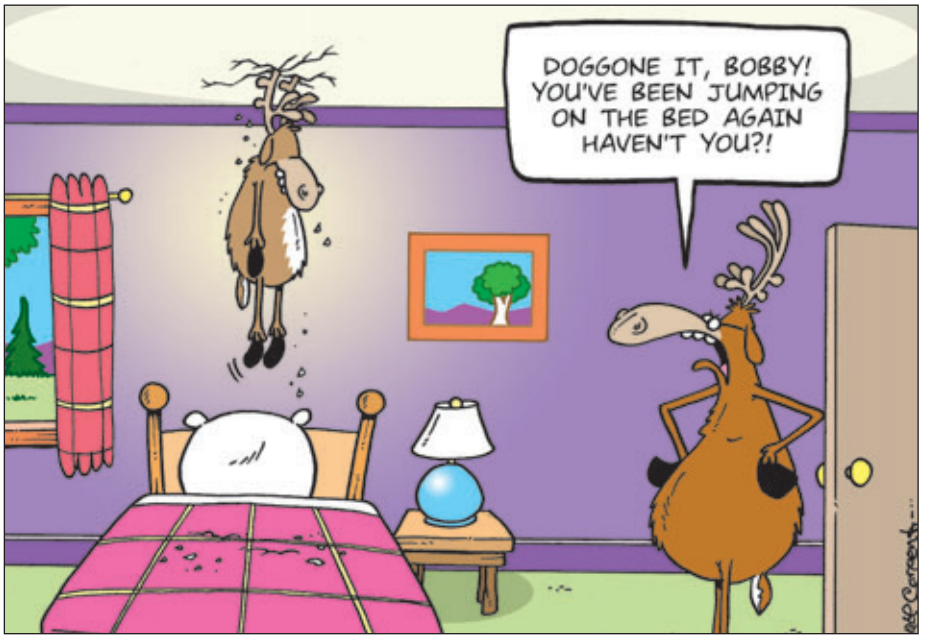
French category: 1st place, Melody Salt of Waswanipi; and 2nd place, Geraldine Trapper from Mistissini.

First place winners received $1000 prizes, 2nd place winners received an iPod Touch, and 3rd place winners received Digital Touch cameras as did the consolation prize winner.

Erratum & correction

In the last issue of the Nation we stated in the story, "A New Place to Lay Your Head", that the New Comfort Suites Hotel had opened in Val-d'Or on March 17.

Instead of a Comfort Suites, the Hotel is in fact a Quality Inn and Suites. The Nation would like to sincerely apologize for the error and encourages everyone to check out the new Quality Inn & Suites the next time you are in Val-d'Or.



Comic strip courtesy of Tundra Comics: www.tundracomics.com

Open season on elections

Candidates and their leaders talk about what their parties have to offer constituents in the Abitibi-Baie-James-Nunavik-Eeyou riding

By Amy German

Since the rejection of the Harper government's last budget, it has now been a few weeks since the candidates in the coveted federal riding of Abitibi-Baie-James-Nunavik-Eeyou have been out to vie for your votes.

Between incumbent Yvon Lévesque for the Bloc Québécois, Romeo Saganash, the first Cree to ever run as a candidate for the NDP, Léandre Gervais running for the Liberals, Jean-Maurice Matte for the Conservative Party and Johnny Kasudluak running for the Green Party, there is indeed a bounty of worthy candidates to choose from.

However, the major question is – who truly does deserve your vote?

The Nation spent several days chasing down the candidates and their party leaders to see who has the best to offer northern Quebec and what each party can do for the riding.

Romeo Saganash, New Democratic Party

Romeo Saganash made Cree history on March 31 when he announced that he would be the New Democratic Party candidate in the riding as he is the first Cree to ever run for the position of an MP.

"It was a question of leadership for me. I look at the other leaders and I think that the Liberals are kind of unstable. I don't trust Steven Harper. And as for Duceppe, the Bloc is not even a national party. I think the best choice is going with Jack Layton's leadership," said Saganash.

And yet, Saganash was modest about being the first Cree to run. He spoke just as excitedly about being the first Cree to have graduated from law school from the Université du Québec à Montréal in 1989.

While this may be his first foray into federal politics, Saganash is an experienced political veteran having worked for the Grand Council of the Crees since 1981.

He was first given the opportunity to go to the United Nations with former Grand Chief Ted Moses and the late Bob Epstein in 1984 to work in consultation on the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Working later on in Government Relations and International Affairs for the GCC, Saganash was able to take his own place in the Declaration's history. He followed and contributed to the

process diligently until the UN General Assembly adopted it in 2007.

However, much to his dismay, while Canada did sign the Declaration recently, Saganash believes it doesn't have much meaning in this country under the Harper government.

"When you carefully read Canada's endorsement of the Declaration, Harper is essentially saying, 'Yes we endorse the Declaration but we will continue to do what we do now'."

But, Saganash said if the NDP were in charge of government, this would not be the case since it was the NDP in the first place that passed the motion that pushed Harper into signing and party leader Jack Layton who also managed to get the Prime Minister to make the 2008 Residential School Apology.

Looking at the NDP's track record when it came to Canada's First Peoples was what convinced Saganash that the party has done what is needed to show their openness.

That openness doesn't begin and end with the three different Aboriginal groups within his riding. According to Saganash, by representing the NDP he has the most to offer the constituents of the riding in terms of rights, interests and economics.

Saganash believes that having worked towards partnerships, mutual respect and cooperation between different peoples of the region during his tenure with the Grand Council, that he is aware and capable of serving the interests of every demographic in his riding. Working on the relationships between these demographics would be his first order of business should he be elected.

"If you consider all the global challenges that we have today, whether it's climate change, environmental protection, resource development, water or the future of Indigenous people, we have an opportunity here to show leadership on how to tackle these challenges in this riding," said Saganash.

At the same time, Saganash's decision to run hasn't come without controversy. Within his first week of campaigning he drew criticism from Abitibi-Baie James-Nunavik-Eeyou incumbent Bloc MP Yvon Lévesque.

Lévesque told Le Frontenac newspaper that "some voters will no longer support the NDP now that the party is running an Aboriginal candidate," implying that constituents would be too racist to vote in an Aboriginal. He also implied that the NDP had made a mistake running his longtime "friend" as a candidate.

Though Lévesque has since retracted the statement and apologized both to the Aboriginals of Quebec and the voting public, Saganash is still reeling from the incident.

In response, Saganash said he and Lévesque are not really friends but just acquaintances, who have attended some of the same official functions but have never spent any time together.

"Yeah, he's called me Romeo, I call him Mr. Lévesque," said Saganash.

Saganash said he was truly horrified by Lévesque's comments. He would have expected this kind of a statement to be made during a different era, like in 1960 when Aboriginals were first given the right to vote in federal elections.

"I was totally stunned by his statements because he's the incumbent and he's supposed to have experience as a politician. To say that kind of thing in the middle of a campaign just stunned me. Above all, I thought that these types of statements were a thing of the past," he said.

"LOOKING AT THE NDP'S TRACK RECORD WHEN IT CAME TO CANADA'S FIRST PEOPLES WAS WHAT CONVINCED SAGANASH THAT THE PARTY HAS DONE WHAT IS NEEDED TO SHOW THEIR OPENNESS."

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Moving away from the incident, Saganash believes he is fundamentally the best candidate for the region because he speaks the "languages" of the region, both literally and metaphorically. He said becoming an MP isn't something that he would take for granted. That his work would be based on mutual respect and getting the people of the region to work together within this context of mutual respect and cooperation.

"I am a better pick because I speak their language, in general terms, not just language as such, because I know how politics work both in Ottawa and in Quebec City because I have been to parliamentary commissions and meetings with ministers. I also speak three out of the five languages spoken in this riding. I don't speak Inuktitut but I understand a bit of Algonquin because the roots are very similar. My experience of the years will serve me in this capacity," said Saganash.

Jack Layton, New Democratic Party

Party leader Jack Layton also endorsed Saganash as the best person for the riding.

Layton said when he first met the candidate at a NDP congress, where Saganash was delivering a speech on the environment, human rights and the role of the land in First Nations communities.

Layton quickly realized that the values of the NDP and the ones derived from the wisdom of generations of Elders had a lot in common.

"Now that Saganash is a candidate he is able to carry that strong message about the importance of the environment and of economic development where everyone gets to be a part in it. He has also shown he's able to provide real leadership as seen in negotiations with the Quebec government for various settlements and financial matters and rights issues," said Layton.

Part of Layton's plan to get Saganash a seat in parliament isn't just about building a NDP stronghold up north but about making sure the House of Commons hears about the needs of Aboriginals from actual Aboriginals instead of others representing them.

"I know other parties have had Aboriginal MPs before, but the NDP puts a lot of emphasis on community values, on rights, on sharing and working together. These reflect the values that have been passed down through the generations and so there is a harmony between the NDP and a Cree leader who has stepped forward to become our candidate," said Layton.

Should the NDP win the riding, Layton said that housing would be a major issue to be addressed because of the severe lack of it in so many Aboriginal communities.

This would be done while simultaneously empowering those in the region in terms of employment and the ensuring that there is education available so that everyone can participate in that employment. That the "paternalistic" approach the federal government had in the 1950s, to come in and simply lay down housing where they chose to would be a thing of the past.

But most of all, Layton said he would like to encourage everyone to come out and vote, particularly those who have never done so before, be they youth or Elder.

"THOUGH LÉVESQUE HAS SINCE RETRACTED THE STATEMENT AND APOLOGIZED BOTH TO THE ABORIGINALS OF QUEBEC AND THE VOTING PUBLIC, SAGANASH IS STILL REELING FROM THE INCIDENT."

Yvon Lévesque, Bloc Québécois

Incumbent Bloc Québécois MP, Yvon Lévesque is confident that he's the man to represent the Abitibi-Baie-James-Nunavik-Eeyou riding because he is a man of the people, having lived in Val-d'Or for most of his life.

Though born on the Gaspé Peninsula, Lévesque, 71, has lived in the city since 1954 and jokes that he's "not a new guy to Abitibi-James Bay-Eeyou."

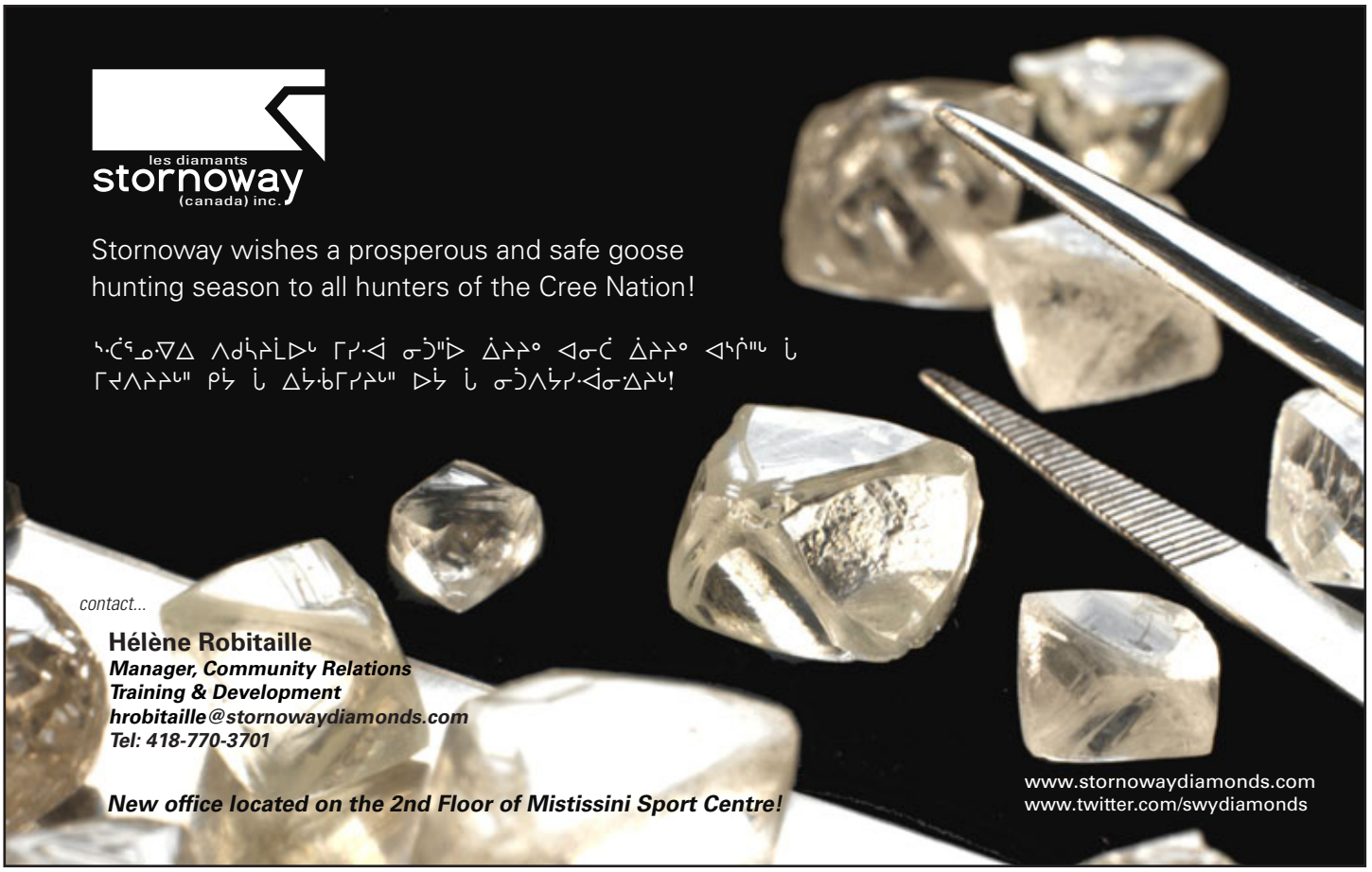
But, Lévesque said he's the best candidate for the region not just because he has lived amongst the people for over 50 years but because he has also represented and worked alongside them.

Prior to his life in politics, Lévesque was a union representative for the Fédération des travailleurs et travailleuses du Québec (FTQ), the largest union in James Bay and all of northwestern Quebec, for 15 years. He was also their representative in adjudication hearings.

Lévesque said the Bloc is the best party to represent Canada's largest riding because it can focus on the needs of the province, including the interests of First Nations.

"The Bloc represents Quebec only. We are a minority in Canada as are the First Nations peoples," said Lévesque.

This means that the Bloc really doesn't mind making other parties mad because Quebecers have special needs and the party will fight for the needs of the Quebec people, including First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Nations. If this makes people in other provinces or other ridings that aren't Bloc angry, so be it.

Should he retain his seat, Lévesque said he will continue to fight against the federal government's new Nutrition North program that began on April 1, because it completely fails those in the north.

While the program is supposed to lower the costs of nutritious foods, such as fresh produce and lean meats, it also means an increase in the costs of food items that the government doesn't prioritize for a subsidy.

It's supposed to be a revamping of the Food Mail program that was started in Val-d'Or in the 1950s but, according to Lévesque, some residents will now be seeing almost 1000% increase in the cost of some food items.

"The distributors are currently paying the transport but this will now be transferred on to the customers. This will make food much more expensive for customers. Whereas they were previously paying 80¢/ kg, they can now pay up to $12.71/kg. The rise in costs for places like Chalk River will go up something along the lines of 971%," said Lévesque.

Lévesque said he has been fighting this program since it was announced and the first MP to take it up with Indian and Northern Affairs. Though he can't promise that he will be able to stop the new program, he has said that reelection will mean furthering this fight.

Lévesque also said he's the ideal candidate for his riding because his ideas are in line with those of former Quebec premier, and distant relative, René Lévesque.

Lévesque's father was a third cousin of the former premier and that he's also no taller than his 5'3" relative. Having been a good friend of the former premier, he said that it was the late Albert Diamond who told him to carry on René Lévesque's cause.

By this he means that all Quebecers, including First Nations, should be able to participate in a strong Quebec economy and benefit from the programs available in Quebec society the same way that the federal government works to ensure that immigrants get that same participation.

This concept isn't just about creating employment but ensuring that there is training available so that people in the region can get the jobs that they want. Lévesque said the Bloc has been working hard to ensure that the fibre-optic program is established everywhere so that people in remote communities can receive online training.

In terms of the Bloc being the better party to vote for, Lévesque said his new competition, Romeo Saganash of the NDP, is no match because the NDP will never form Canada's next government, plus he believes that the "NDP is going down."

"They have been around for 60 years now and they've never had more than 30 MPs. I doubt that they will make it over the 30 mark this time either," said Lévesque.

As for the controversy over his remarks regarding Saganash being a poor choice for the NDP, Lévesque said his words were taken out of context and it was a mistake.

"I would never think about speaking against Crees or white people. There are people in the Cree nation who would rather vote for Romeo because he is a Cree and he may know Cree culture better. But for those in the south, I know what is coming in the future much better than Romeo does and this has nothing to do with First Nations or non-Natives. I feel sorry because my words were misinterpreted," explained Lévesque.

"I WOULD NEVER THINK ABOUT SPEAKING AGAINST CREES OR WHITE PEOPLE. THERE ARE PEOPLE IN THE CREE NATION WHO WOULD RATHER VOTE FOR ROMEO BECAUSE HE IS A CREE AND HE MAY KNOW CREE CULTURE BETTER."

Gilles Duceppe, Bloc Québécois

Lévesque's party leader, Gilles Duceppe, also took the time to speak to the Nation to show why his candidate is the best choice for voters in the Abitibi-Baie-James-Nunavik-Eeyou riding.

"Lévesque is the right choice because he did a hell of a job supporting First Nations' demands every time he was asked to. He went out and met the Cree as well as the Inuit and the Algonquins in his riding, which is the largest riding in Quebec, if not Canada. It stretches from Val-d'Or to Kuujuak," said Duceppe.

Duceppe said Lévesque has always shown his commitment to the Aboriginal people of Quebec and Canada over his seven years as an MP and Lévesque's fight against the Nutrition North program is another fine example of that.

As for the controversy over Saganash, Duceppe stands firmly behind his candidate despite the fact that NDP leader Jack Layton called for Lévesque to be dropped as a candidate.

"He tried to say something using the wrong words and he apologized. When I saw Alexi Wawanoloath, who was a member of the National Assembly for the Parti Québécois, he spoke about how it was Yvon who convinced him to get into politics and he has always supported Yvon," said Duceppe.

"We shouldn't judge someone on the error of expressing something badly in comparison to everything they have done before."

It's not just Lévesque who has stood firm and delivered when it comes to the rights and needs of Canada's First People, Duceppe said the Bloc as a whole has always fought to improve the situation of Aboriginal peoples not just in Quebec but across Canada. Much in the vein of René Lévesque, who recognized the rights of the Cree in 1985, Duceppe said his party will continue to recognize Aboriginal rights and fight for Aboriginal peoples.

"The Paix des Braves, signed by Bernard Landry and Ted Moses, recognizes that Crees are not Québécois, they are Crees and we have to have that nation-to-nation approach," said Duceppe.

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Johnny Kasudluak, Green Party

Running for the Green Party of Canada, Johnny Kasudluak, 29, from the Inuit community of Inukjuak (formerly Port Harrison), may not have any political experience but he isn't short on life experience.

"I'm a jack of all trades really," said Kasudluak, with a warm giggle though that's really an understatement.

He is currently the co-owner of a company that has a contract with Environment Canada to operate the local weather station.

Though he only graduated with high-school leaving credits and spent some time in college, he possesses two culinary certificates from the prestigious Le Cordon Bleu Culinary Arts Institute in Ottawa. Working this angle to its full potential, Kasudluak runs a catering business and is a culinary instructor.

He has also been a field supervisor for Air Inuit and worked as a police officer (special constable) for the Kativik Regional Police Force.

Kasudluak said his foray into politics isn't based on his previous work experience, but his experiences witnessing the overall social conditions of his region and fears for other Aboriginal communities within his riding that may be facing similar hardship.

"We have been neglected. We have been given the money that was agreed upon for the municipal and regional services, but at the end we are always forgotten and left to our own devices," said Kasudluak.

Being forgotten, Kasudluak said, really rings true when it comes to Bloc Québécois MP Yvon Lévesque, who most people have never met. Kasudluak said that out of the people he polled, only 1% of them said they had seen Lévesque once and that was usually at the airport.

Though First Nations communities in the riding vary in size, Kasudluak said they all share the same problems: poverty, high cost of living, and a lack of social housing that results in multiple families living under one roof.

In his home community, Kasudluak said these problems are ever present. He sees and then hears his own family members plead over the local radio for food because they simply can't make ends meet.

Kasudluak is not a supporter of the current switch the federal government has undertaken from supporting the previous Food Mail program to the new Nutrition North program that sees an increase in subsidies for nutritious foods, like fresh produce and lean meats, but cuts subsidies for other staples, such as flour, dried items and canned foods.

"This is just such an insult from our government. They are the ones supplying the subsidies and are aware of the high cost of living. They have not kept the rest of the country informed about what it is like up north," said Kasudluak.

Kasudluak said he saw the price of a 2.5kg bag of flour skyrocket from $7 to $11 in one week under the new program and now he wonders how his people will be able to afford to make bannock.

He sees the new program as just another means of the government controlling their intake as the Inuit don't have as much access to traditional foods when they can't afford a snowmobile and other necessities to travel to the hunting and fishing territory.

"They are now stuck in their homes, begging for food over the radio," said Kasudluak.

The high unemployment rate within the Inuit communities also contributes to this brutal circumstance, which is why he wants to see a change and decided to run as a candidate.

Kasudluak said he would start making a change by allocating funding through the Canada Mortgage Housing Corporation to see the construction of 1000 new homes for the region of Nunavik alone.

This would be the minimum for the Crees communities that are also in need of new housing and he would see to the needs of the Algonquin communities. This

construction boom would create a number of new jobs that would help all these communities.

Kasudluak said he would also see that the Elders of Nunavik would see a 25% increase to their guaranteed income supplement that would also be applicable to those who are currently retiring.

"THEY ARE NOW STUCK IN THEIR HOMES, BEGGING FOR FOOD OVER THE RADIO."

He would also increase funding to build more residences for the Elders and ensure that Elder abuse in Aboriginal communities stops within these establishments.

The creation of initiatives for youth employment and education, including tax incentives, would also be a priority if Kasudluak were elected in order to create better futures for the youth. Programs for suicide prevention are also needed and this is something he would work to increase.

As for the southern portion of the riding, Kasudluak said he would look to increase employment through sustainable forestry programs should he be able to get companies on board.

In terms of going greener, Kasudluak said he would support individual initiatives and proposals by citizens in the region and that his government would provide for tax incentives for those willing to implement energy-saving measures within their homes.

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Check out Recall Designs goose calls on their website: www.recalldesigns.com.

Kasudluak said the Green Party is the way to go for his riding. He feels the party is in line with his traditional values and that it can best represent the needs of the Inuit and all of the people within the Abitibi-Baie-James-Nunavik-Eeyou riding.

Elizabeth May, Green Party

Green Party leader Elizabeth May believes that Kasudluak really is the best fit for the Abitibi-Baie-James-Nunavik-Eeyou riding based on his previous accomplishments and contributions to his community.

She spoke of how in his formative years he served in the Junior Canadian Rangers, and volunteered on the local youth committee and the youth radio station CINY-FM, and the fact that he was a delegate to the National Inuit Youth Council.

May listed Kasudluak's time spent serving his community as a police constable. She said at the request of the community's Elders and local politicians, he had set up and moderated a Facebook page on regional politics for all of Nunavik to give the people a voice. For her, this shows Kasudluak's commitment to his people and the local political forum.

"Johnny is actively engaged on issues vital to our northern communities – fighting to strengthen environmental regulation, pushing for Canada to take real action to meet the ideals of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People, and addressing climate change which is already affecting the peoples of the Canadian North," said May.

It is her belief that the voters of the riding will find no more dedicated, harder-working representative to be their voice in Parliament.

"I've always voted for the candidate who best represented my hopes and dreams for Canada. If I lived in Nunavik I would cast my ballot for Johnny," said May

The Greens can do so much more for the voters of the Abitibi-Baie James-Nunavik-Eeyou riding because they are the only party willing to talk about and take action on many of the major issues that matter to voters in northern communities.

"I was the only leader to address First Nations issues in the 2008 leaders' debates. Our platform has pledged $2.4 billion for education, safe drinking water and improved housing for First Nations. We are the only party talking seriously about climate change in this election. We're the only party talking about youth employment and education – words we'll back up with over $3 billion to support local youth employment programs. Finally, we are the only party that is committed to bringing respect and cooperation back to Canada's Parliament.

"When the Harper government is mired down in attack politics and hyper-partisanship, the issues of ordinary Canadians, and especially the concerns of our remote rural and northern communities, get lost in the noise. Green MPs like Johnny Kasudluak will make sure your needs don't take second place to politics," said May.

Jean-Maurice Matte, Conservative Party

Senneterre Mayor Jean-Maurice Matte is taking another go at becoming MP for his riding, having run during the last election and lost.

Loyal to Prime Minister Stephen Harper, Matte said he is running for the Conservatives again because of their performance when it comes to Canada's economy and Harper's Action Plan for Canada.

"It is time for us in Abitibi-Baie-James-Nunavik-Eeyou to be there for Canada, particularly when it comes to being there at the table for decision-making. We need to stop being the opposition to everything.

"It seems very clear that Mr. Harper once again will be Prime Minister on May 2 and so we have the choice of being on the ice with him or just hanging out in the stands with the other parties," said Matte.

While he said all the region has done in previous years is send Bloc MPs to Ottawa who are unwilling to work with the federal government, Matte said there is so much more to be gained by working with the Conservatives.

He promised that whatever action the Conservative government takes in the north would be respectful to the Aboriginals in the riding, and their values.

"People perceive Harper the wrong way; he is a good Prime Minister. He has built housing in some of the communities and what I intend to do on May 2 when I am elected as MP is to create a plan with the provincial government for the construction of 1000 housing units, say for Nunavik, over the next 10 years," said Matte.

The goal with this plan isn't just to improve the lives of families in Nunavik but also the perception of Harper in the riding. Matte said he had other plans for each of the regions to improve upon the image of the Prime Minister and the Conservative government.

Because the Conservatives would like further involvement in the provincial government's Plan Nord, Matte said the Conservatives would create an Economic Development Canada office in Chibougamau for the Crees and other communities.

"I've been a mayor in the region for nine years and I've also been part of the regional board known as the Conférence régionale des élus and we have taken action to help these communities through this group. Once I am MP, I will work with them to have a better quality of life through social measures and housing and I will ensure that they have all the financing that they need to have a good quality of life," said Matte.

While other parties have made similar promises, Matte said he's not making promises as that is not what he bases his

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Cree Regional Authority
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Have a Safe and Enjoyable Goose Break!

As Goose Break approaches us once again, we would like you to exercise extra caution this year when going onto the Land. It has been an uncommonly warm winter, and the ice conditions have been affected by this weather.

Ice is disappearing more quickly than usual on our lakes, rivers and in the Bay. Ice should be at least 6 inches for foot traffic and 8 to 10 inches for snowmobiles and all-terrain vehicles. If we take some extra precaution, like checking the thickness of ice around our camps and near our commonly traveled routes, we can all enjoy a safe and healthy cultural break.

We would also like to remind you that with our families, we should exercise caution with the storage of our guns and ammunition when back at the camp. Guns are vital to our hunts, and safety and care can be incorporated into our daily routines.

We wish you all of Eeyou Istchee a safe and great traditional break with your families.

Matthew Coon Come
Grand Chief

Ashley Iserhoff
Deputy Grand Chief

campaign on, instead these are things he will actually do when elected.

When asked about the social problems plaguing Aboriginals throughout Canada, such as the 581+ missing and murdered Aboriginal women, issues of poverty and circumstance that has led to this crisis, Matte insisted that so much of these problems can be resolved by sending a candidate to Ottawa who can actually work with the government instead of the Bloc Québécois.

According to Matte, a candidate like Yvon Lévesque simply does not have the power to help any of these communities when it comes to any major social issue because the Bloc works in opposition to the federal government.

"What I intend to do when I'm elected is that I'm going to go into those communities and listen to the people to make sure that whatever problems they have, somebody will talk to the right people in Ottawa to make sure that these problems get resolved," said Matte.

And, because he has worked in the region in politics already for the last decade, covering a myriad of issues and dossiers in the region, Matte said he is the candidate who has developed the right contacts within the region to help the people of this riding. Combining that with the ability to work with Ottawa, Matte said he is the best candidate for the region.

Stephen Harper, Conservative Party

Prime Minister Stephen Harper also took the time to contact the Nation regarding why his candidate and party are the best choice for the Abitibi-Baie-James-Nunavik-Eeyou and a few other pressing matters he wished to discuss with the Nation's readers.

According to Harper, Matte's main objective is to improve the quality of life of families, seniors, young people and Aboriginals by creating economic growth in the region. He is in tune with the needs of the region and knows his riding inside and out having been mayor of Senneterre.

"I had the pleasure of visiting the region just prior to the election to confirm Mr. Matte's candidacy and I know one thing for sure: Mr. Matte doesn't just want to talk about issues, he actually wants to act and make a difference for his region," said the Prime Minister.

As for the Conservative Party of Canada, Harper said it is the right party for the region, because it is the only party that truly represents the interests of Quebecers in the regions, and indeed Canadians in all rural and remote communities.

"PEOPLE PERCEIVE HARPER THE WRONG WAY; HE IS A GOOD PRIME MINISTER. HE HAS BUILT HOUSING IN SOME OF THE COMMUNITIES."

"The current Bloc Québécois MP is out of touch with the needs of his constituents and this is evidenced by the fact that he opposed our recent budget, a budget that kept taxes low and was focused on creating jobs. It was a budget that continued to deliver for the forestry and mining sectors, two key industries for the region.

"In addition to our focus on jobs and economic growth, our party's commitment to helping improve the quality of life of Aboriginals in the North is unwavering," said Harper.

This is why Harper said the Conservatives created the new Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency. The formation of this agency with $50 million in funding over five years was formally announced in August 2009 during his annual Arctic tours.

"We have also invested in important training, and we are helping local businesses and entrepreneurs grow the Northern economy.

"In fact, Canada's Economic Action Plan committed over $300 million over two years to strengthen current programs, improve health outcomes for First Nations and Inuit individuals, and move toward greater integration with provincial and territorial health systems."

Harper went on to say that the investment was supported by a $135 million infrastructure investment for the construction and renovation of health services that benefit First Nations, including clinics and nurses' residences, resulting in over 40 new projects.

While he had the opportunity, the Prime Minister also requested a moment to make an address to the Nation's readers regarding an important campaign issue for the Conservatives: the long-gun registry.

"The position of the Bloc Québécois on this issue is out of touch with the way of life of constituents of this region.

"We are the party that stands with rural Canada and that understands rural values and the rural way of life. We stand with farmers, rural Canadians and Quebecers from every region who are treated like criminals by Michael Ignatieff and his Bloc Québécois/NDP coalition because they own a rifle or shotgun.

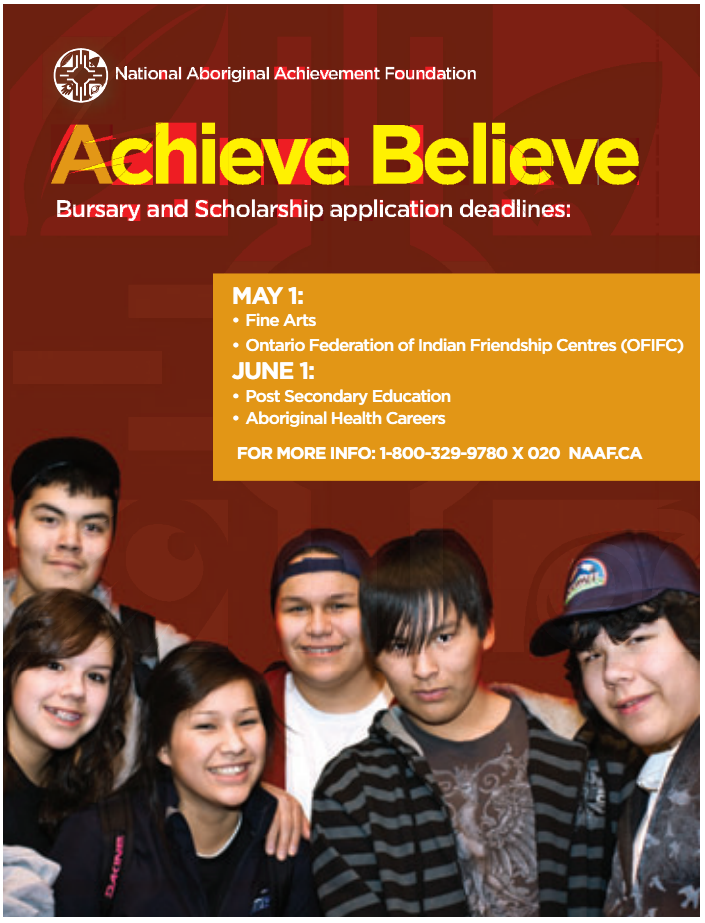
"Only a Conservative-led majority government can finally scrap the inefficient and wasteful long-gun registry.

"Another major commitment the party has made during this campaign is to create a new hunting and wildlife advisory panel. This advisory panel would be comprised of representatives from various hunting, angling and conservation organizations, like Ducks Unlimited, to ensure government decisions regarding issues like endangered species, wetland protection and nature conservation are based on solid science and balanced advice.

"Hunting, fishing and trapping have played a key role in Canada's history. They remain central to the livelihood and traditions of many Canadians, including Aboriginal and Northern communities. They are also an important part of many local and regional tourism industries.

"Unfortunately, these legitimate recreational and commercial activities are sometimes threatened by unfair restrictions based on a misunderstanding of rural economies and conservation practices.

"The Conservative Party will always stand up for the rural way of life in the regions of Quebec."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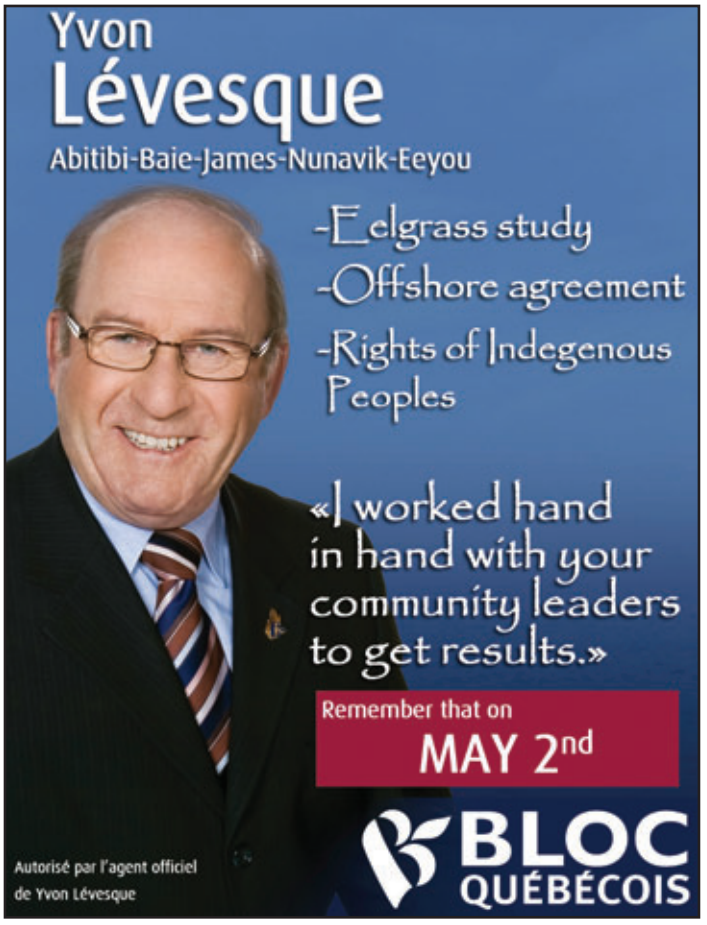
Yvon
Lévesque
Abitibi-Baie-James-Nunavik-Eeyou
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-Offshore agreement
-Rights of Indegenous Peoples
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Léandre Gervais, Liberal Party

Running for the federal Liberals, Léandre Gervais brings his own contributions to the table. An engineer by training, Gervais has spent a lifetime working in the mining industry and has made strides in doing so as he is the vice-president of Canadian engineering giant, Genivar.

According to Gervais, a career in the mining industry would entirely influence his position as an MP because he believes that in order to have strong Canadian cities, the country's regions must also be strong.

"Our regions' strength is the exploitation of our natural resources and this includes the mines, the forests, fresh water and wind power. We must exploit the richness of our natural resources, but we must do this in harmony with the people in the region and also with the environment. We cannot leave our environment in a deficit for the next generation," said Gervais.

While Gervais' thinking is in line with Quebec Premier Jean Charest when it comes to developing the north through the Plan Nord project, Gervais said his interest is really in ensuring that the people in Abitibi-Baie-James-Nunavik-Eeyou participate and benefit from it to the fullest.

He said he wants to ensure that those who have decided to build their lives and families in this region get the best that Canada has to offer.

And, for those communities that do not want to see certain types of development, their rights should also be respected, according to Gervais.

"It is clear that if we want to develop the north, then people from the north need to agree with that. If the people don't agree to develop something then we should wait.

"By waiting I mean that maybe the mining industry can convince some people or maybe they can change the project. Maybe the next generation will accept the project but if this generation doesn't want it, we should wait. We should not force the local people to do something that they don't agree with," said Gervais.

Gervais said this standard should exist no matter if the community is Cree, Inuit or white, as projects shouldn't be forced on others as they only end up being too costly.

A father of four, Gervais said making commitments to Canadian families is a major focus and that's what he would be investing in.

Not only has Gervais promised to build new homes in the north but he would also work to bring more healthcare professionals into the region and offer them the right incentives to stay in the region indefinitely.

In terms of helping Canada's youth, he talked about party leader Michael Ignatieff's plan to invest $1500 annually per student to go towards their post-secondary education.

He talked about the Liberal's plan to put up new money for pensions and a plan to invest in care plans for those who are caring for family members at home. This as well as a plan for investing in networking across the country so that no area is without the Internet so that Canadians are connected wherever they go. These are ways Gervais said the Liberals could increase Canadian's quality of life.

"This is the Liberal Party's plan for families and I am very happy with it. The Liberals are the party for families. This is why I want to go to Ottawa.

"At the minimum we should be giving those in this region the same chance that those who live in the cities get and as a regionalist I will work every day to ensure that we get our share of the cake," said Gervais.

When it comes to why Gervais believes he is the best candidate for the riding, he said quite simply that he would work harder than incumbent Yvon Lévesque ever has and harder than anyone else.

"I am the best candidate because I was born and raised here; I am a farm boy from Clairval. I have spent my life

working very hard and this is why I have been a success.

"I will work just as hard in Ottawa to get the best for the people of this region and because of this work I will be the best," said Gervais.

With his no-frills approach, Gervais said the Liberals are a much better choice than the Bloc or the Conservatives not only because they will invest in families, but they won't spend Canadian tax dollars on things the people don't want.

"OUR REGIONS' STRENGTH IS THE EXPLOITATION OF OUR NATURAL RESOURCES AND THIS INCLUDES THE MINES, THE FORESTS, FRESH WATER AND WIND POWER."

"Our region is not interested in buying fighter jets and we would not build these in Chibougamau because this isn't good for us. We also don't want big American-style jails and we wouldn't build them in our region either.

"The Conservatives only want to reduce taxes for major enterprises by $6 billion but this wouldn't give anything to anyone in the north,

"What we need is to invest money into families and that means investing it in housing, healthcare, education and better pension plans for the elderly. Every dollar that the federal government can invest in families will help families in the north," said Gervais.

While Liberal leader Michael Ignatieff was contacted several times to answer the Nation's questions that were asked to all the other party leaders, Ignatieff failed to respond by press time.

CANADORE college

Shannon Manitowabi, a second-year Small Business Management student, was honoured as a Student Who Makes a Difference at the 23rd Annual Evening of Applause event held in March

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Your vote, your choices

Here are the candidates running in the Timmins-James Bay riding in Ontario

By Will Nicholls

Our brother and sister First Nations on the Ontario side of the James Bay have four choices when they head to the ballot boxes for this latest of federal elections on May 2.

Chief Norman Hardisty Jr. of the Moose Cree First Nation said, "For myself I look at the best person to represent the riding. I don't look at or support any party. It's the person who is going to do their best for us that matters."

As matter of fact, Hardisty hopes First Nations politics never moves to a party system as he feels this is how people, communities and issues fall through the cracks.

Hardisty said he wants to see what candidates are going to say about First Nations issues and problems. "I want to see the bar raised for First Nations. I want to know the candidates are listening to us and will bring that to Ottawa.

"Our communities need a boost to create a true self-sustaining and healthy economy. That is key and candidates have to address this."

Hardisty said having a healthy economy will help address the social and economic problems experienced by individuals. "We need a jump start so we can help ourselves and each other. We are starting to see it but it still needs more so we can progress as a people. We don't want to always be seen as needing a handout, we do not want to continue to live in Third World conditions and we want the bad housing to be a thing of the past. These are common causes that our First Nations communities and members will look for when looking at any candidate. We don't want to be considered a minority whose issues are not considered when we go to vote."

Kevin Schofield, Cree political junkie and musician, agreed to give a few comments on the candidates. He did this even though he believes "any election is just parading a bunch of fools in front of us." Schofield said the comments of the "Bloc guy who trashed that Saganash guy" showed what some MPs think of First Nations people. He reminds First Nation voters that with "our large population we have the swing vote" and that we should make it count.

The Candidates

Charlie Angus, New Democratic Party

A true North candidate the incumbent MP Charlie Angus was born and raised in Timmins. He has shown how close he is to his roots by publishing five books on northern Ontario life and culture.

During his term, he has undoubtedly been a champion for First Nations. In his riding, Angus was instrumental in bringing the Kashechewan First Nations water crisis to national attention. It was called "a Walkerton-in-waiting by the Ontario Clean Water Agency. This water crisis saw community members being evacuated because of the dangers. Angus said, "The real difference between us and other parties is we take local issues like this and bring them to national attention."

The Attawapiskat First Nation had a crisis concerning its school being built on toxic waste. Angus assisted the community on this issue and the community is slated for a new school. Shannen's Dream, based on the idea safe schools for all, grew out of this. Angus said the NDP is looking to spend $1 billion a year to close the gap between education given to First Nations children and the rest of Canadians.

When asked how he got involved in these issues, Angus said he visits every community in his riding. "In both those communities I asked if the previous MP ever visited and they laughed. I was the first to do it and that way I learned about them and their challenges first-hand. If they want me to get involved, I do. It doesn't matter to me whether it's a First Nations community or not. I want to have a working relationship

with them all. I don't see myself as an outsider," said Angus

On the other side of the James Bay Angus worked for three years with Quebec's northern First Nations assisting in economic and community development, including the Algonquin First Nations and Barriere Lake. He was first elected in 2004 and the last two elections saw his support solidify significantly. In 2004, he scrapped by with less than 600 votes. But in 2006, he won by 6000 votes over the second-place loser.

Maclean's magazine named Angus the Top Constituency MP in Canada. Angus said, "I have been honoured to work with all the different communities in my riding. I have learnt from them by listening to and developing a real relationship with them."

Angus was the only candidate who returned calls by press deadline.

Schofield: This guy goes out of his way to assist First Nations people. He shows us that non-Native people have respect for us. That's the type of people we need in the caucus. I like him.

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Cree School Board
Commission Scolaire Crie

CSB Students win Awards at Quebec Aboriginal Science Fair!

The Cree School Board Chairman, Council of Commissioners and CSB Senior Directors would like to extend a special congratulations to these exceptional students from Eeyou Istchee.

SECONDARY 1 – 3rd Place Winner:
From Eastmain **Raven Mark**.
Topic: *What is the acidity in people saliva?*

SECONDARY 4-5 – 2nd Place Winners:
From Mistissini **Amy Mattawashish** and **Roberta Polson-Blacksmith**.
Topic: *Effects of smoking.*

Their determination and hard work on their science projects took them all the way to the 2011 Quebec Aboriginal Science Fair held at the Jimmy Sandy Memorial School in Kawawachikamach on March 22 and 23.

Keep up the good work!

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Marilyn Wood, Liberal Party

Marilyn Wood has strong business roots in her northern riding. She owns a biotechnology company but has served on the Timmins Chamber of Commerce both as a director and president.

In the past, Wood as a management consultant worked with the Mushkegowuk Tribal Council.

She says this and her work with government, the private sector and non-profit agencies have given her an up-close understanding of some the challenges and opportunities facing northeastern Ontario's Aboriginal communities. She is committed to working towards sustainable economic development and socio-economic prosperity for the people of the Timmins-James Bay riding.

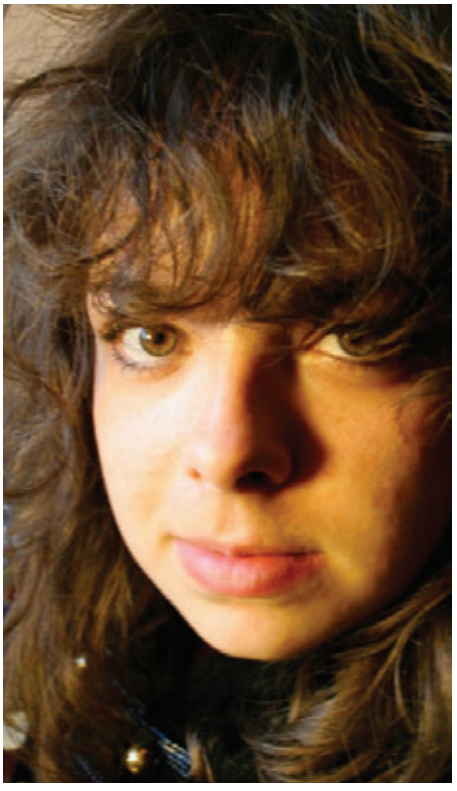
Schofield: I don't know anything about her. That's a problem if you're trying to get my vote or anyone else. Where does she stand on revenue sharing for First Nations on all the resources being taken from our territory?

Lisa Bennet, Green Party

Perhaps the hardest candidate to get to know, Lisa Bennet is easily the youngest running to represent the Timmins-James Bay area at 20 years old. The Green Party has replaced the NDP as the total underdog. They may have done well in other countries but Canada is the cold north as far as this party goes. Though they received almost a million votes overall in Canada that didn't translate into a single MP.

One thing they believe in is "We will never place the pursuit of power above principle." Combine that with their worldwide record on saving the environment while making a society's standard of living higher and this is impressive. Canadian Greens point to other countries where Greens are in power and the benefits attained because of it. Though a long shot, getting to know someone with these beliefs would have proved out of the ordinary.

Bennet's closest connection to First Nations is through her sister who has worked as a healthcare provider in Kashechewan, Moose Factory, Moosonee, Fort Albany, Attawapiskat and Peawanuk. With seasoning Bennet may prove to be a player to watch out for.



Schofield: I think it's great someone this young is running. We need to see more youth involved like this. A lot of my friends didn't even know or care an election is happening. We all need to be aware and get out and vote. Decisions are being made that affect everyone and I want a say in that, don't you?

Bill Greenberg, Conservative Party

A relative unknown Bill Greenberg has some impressive credentials that will appeal to some. The initials behind his name include a Bachelor of Social Sciences in Economics, a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and a Diploma in Business Administration.

Greenberg has a real interest in politics and has found a way to make it profitable. For the past 10 years he has sold Canadian and American political memorabilia.

He is currently the branch manager of Union Securities Ltd. in Timmins. Greenberg has helped with a number of not-for-profit organizations.

Schofield: Dirty old rednecks. Just joking, but I am ashamed to say I voted Conservative last time. I thought they would help our economies. They talked a good line but in the end I was disappointed with the results.

JEAN MAURICE
MATTE

HERE FOR CANADA

Conservative

Conservative

- Our riding will benefit from his large political experience
- Support the construction of 1000 housing units in Nunavik
- Work with Northern Communities to make a success of "Le Plan Nord"
- Support Native projects and developments
- A family man respected in all fields of our society

On may 2, the choice is clear:

Abitibi – Baie-James – Nunavik – Eeyou
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JEAN MAURICE
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Authorized by the Official Agent of Jean Maurice Matte campaign

Pssst...

Have any information you'd like to share with *the Nation*? Feel like there's something the rest of the Cree Nation should know?

Well that's what *the Nation* is here for. Call us at 514-272-3077, and we'll look into your story. If you don't call us, your voice won't be heard!

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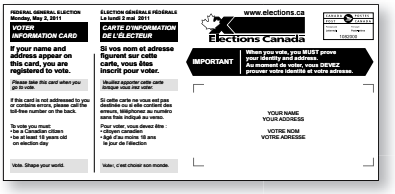
MONDAY, MAY 2, IS ELECTION DAY
LE LUNDI 2 MAI, C'EST JOUR D'ÉLECTION

I CAN CHOOSE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE, I CAN VOTE!

JE PEUX FAIRE UN GESTE QUI COMPTE, JE PEUX VOTER!

DID YOU RECEIVE THIS CARD?


FEDERAL GENERAL ELECTION
Monday, May 2, 2011
VOTER INFORMATION CARD
If your name and address appear on this card, you are registered to vote.
Please take this card when you go to vote.
If this card is not addressed to you or contains errors, please call the toll-free number on the back.
To vote you must:
• be a Canadian citizen
• be at least 18 years old on election day
Vote. Shape your world.

ÉLECTION GÉNÉRALE FÉDÉRALE
Le lundi 2 mai 2011
CARTE D'INFORMATION DE L'ÉLECTEUR
Si vos nom et adresse figurent sur cette carte, vous êtes inscrit pour voter.
Veuillez apporter cette carte lorsque vous irez voter.
Si cette carte ne vous est pas destinée ou si elle contient des erreurs, téléphonez au numéro sans frais indiqué au verso.
Pour voter, vous devez être :
• citoyen canadien
• âgé d'au moins 18 ans le jour de l'élection
Voter, c'est choisir son monde.

www.elections.ca
Elections Canada
IMPORTANT
When you vote, you MUST prove your identity and address.
Au moment de voter, vous DEVEZ prouver votre identité et votre adresse.
YOUR NAME
YOUR ADDRESS
VOTRE NOM
VOTRE ADRESSE

YES – then you're registered. The card tells you where and when to vote. Take it with you when you go to vote.

NO, or you found an error – contact Elections Canada now.

YOU CAN VOTE BEFORE ELECTION DAY.

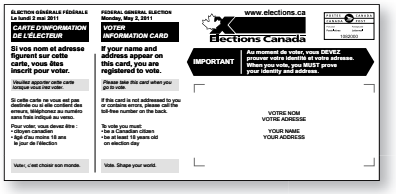
- **At the advance polls** on Friday, April 22; Saturday, April 23; or Monday, April 25, from noon to 8 p.m.
- **By mail or at your local Elections Canada office**, if you apply by 6 p.m. on Tuesday, April 26.

TO VOTE, YOU MUST:

- be a Canadian citizen
- be at least 18 years old on election day
- prove your identity and address

For more information on voting, including the list of authorized pieces of identification, check the brochure you received by mail or visit www.aboriginalvoter.ca/info

AVEZ-VOUS REÇU CETTE CARTE?


ÉLECTION GÉNÉRALE FÉDÉRALE
Le lundi 2 mai 2011
CARTE D'INFORMATION DE L'ÉLECTEUR
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Pour voter, vous devez être :
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Voter, c'est choisir son monde.

FEDERAL GENERAL ELECTION
Monday, May 2, 2011
VOTER INFORMATION CARD
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To vote you must:
• be a Canadian citizen
• be at least 18 years old on election day
Vote. Shape your world.

www.elections.ca
Elections Canada
IMPORTANT
Au moment de voter, vous DEVEZ prouver votre identité et votre adresse.
When you vote, you MUST prove your identity and address.
VOTRE NOM
VOTRE ADRESSE
YOUR NAME
YOUR ADDRESS

OUI – Vous êtes donc inscrit. Cette carte vous indique où et quand voter. Ayez-la en main lorsque vous irez voter.

NON, ou bien vous avez trouvé une erreur – Communiquez dès maintenant avec Élections Canada.

VOUS POUVEZ VOTER AVANT LE JOUR DE L'ÉLECTION.

- **Au bureau de vote par anticipation** le vendredi 22 avril, le samedi 23 avril ou le lundi 25 avril, de midi à 20 h.
- **Par la poste ou à votre bureau local d'Élections Canada,** si vous en faites la demande au plus tard le mardi 26 avril à 18 h.

POUR VOTER, VOUS DEVEZ:

- être citoyen canadien;
- être âgé d'au moins 18 ans le jour de l'élection;
- prouver votre identité et votre adresse.

Pour obtenir de plus amples renseignements concernant le vote, y compris la liste des pièces d'identité autorisées, consultez le dépliant que vous avez reçu par la poste ou visitez www.electeurautochtone.ca/info

VOTE. SHAPE YOUR WORLD.

VOTER, C'EST CHOISIR SON MONDE.

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TTY 1-800-361-8935
For people who are deaf or hard of hearing

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1-866-323-9104
ATS 1-800-361-8935
Pour les personnes sourdes ou malentendantes

Elections Canada

Cree Jobs Partnership

Mr. Steven Forward appointed as the new CJP Project Coordinator

The Cree Jobs Partnership is a partnership that includes the Cree Human Resources Department, the Cree School Board Sabtuan Adult Education Department, Creeco and its subsidiaries CCDC, Gestion ADC and Air Creebec, and the federal and provincial governments. The partnership's objective is to create long term, sustainable jobs for 301 Cree and aboriginal people in the construction, camp management and air transport industries for the two year period April 2010 to March 2012.

Mr. Reggie Neeposh, Chair of the Cree Jobs Partnership Board of Directors is pleased to announce on behalf of the Board of Directors and the Technical Committee that Mr. Steven Forward has been hired as the new CJP Project Coordinator, effective April 3, 2011.

Prior to joining the Cree Jobs Partnership Mr. Forward has worked in management positions and provided business consulting services in the last several years for various Cree entities such as the Auberge Mistissini Lodge, the CSB Sabtuan Adult Education department, and the Cree Nation of Mistissini.

The Cree Jobs Partnership is currently identifying and considering training project proposals that will be carried out over the next year in partnership with CCDC, Gestion ADC and Air Creebec in the construction, camp management and air transport sectors. Please submit your proposal ideas or address your questions to Mr. Forward at 418-923-3888.

Midget A Wemindji Paint Hills

Double gold for Wemindji

Two Wemindji teams win top medals at the 2011 Inter-regional Hockey Championships

By Daniel Coyle

Two teams from Hockey Abitibi-Témiscamingue reached the top of the podium, winning gold at the 2011 Inter-regional Hockey Championships, much to the delight of the James Bay Cree community of Wemindji. The Atom A Wemindji Future Wolves and Midget A Wemindji Paint Hills both swept their competition in the Laurentides-Lanaudière tournament to claim the Western Quebec Championship in their respective divisions.

It was an exciting and sometimes very physical road to gold for the Midget A Wemindji Paint Hills. The club opened the tournament with a 2-0 victory in a penalty-filled game against Tempêtes Monteuil. Paint Hills held on to win on goals by Tyler Shanush and Matthew Asquabaneskum. A total of 62 minutes in penalties were handed out, including 10-minute misconducts for verbal abuse of officials and unsportsmanlike conduct called against two members of the Tempêtes.

"There were a lot of unnecessary penalties called in that game," said Wemindji Paint Hills coach Dusty McBrine. "During intermission, we told the boys to stay focused; we have the lead, get reenergized and don't give (the referees) a chance to call penalties."

The club needed overtime to put away As de Lachenaie in their second game. Albert Atsynia gave Paint Hills the early 1-0 lead but Lachenaie forced overtime on a goal with just over two seconds remaining in the third period.

The Atom A Wemindji Future Wolves

"We hit the goalpost on an empty net in the dying seconds of that game and were called for icing with about five seconds left," recalled McBrine. "They won the faceoff and scored with just two seconds left. That was tough, but I told the boys all we have to do is score first. I stressed no penalties, just skate hard and shoot on net."

The coach's advice paid off as Shanush capped the victory with the winning goal on a breakaway at the 2:24 mark of overtime. McBrine had nothing but praise for Shanush who was also named one of the tournament's top players.

"Shanush is not just a good hockey player, but also a good role model for his teammates. He plays hard every game and academically he is doing very well."

The Cree Mineral Exploration Board is proud to present the 2010 winner of the CMEB Rock Competition and launch the 2011 contest.

2010 winner Sherman Bosum

Sherman Bosum of Oujé-Bougoumou with his rock submission has won the "Prospector Category" $2,000 prize.

We are pleased to announce the opening of the 2011 CMEB Rock Competition, once again. There are many prizes to be won.

You have all summer until October 31 to explore the land and find your treasures.

Be this year's winner
Go dig and have fun!

Join up at
www.cmeb.org/Rock_Competition.pdf

THE CREE MINERAL EXPLORATION BOARD
CONSEIL CRI SUR L'EXPLORATION MINÉRALE

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Centrales de l'Eastmain-1-A et de la Sarcelle et dérivation Rupert

Société d'énergie de la Baie James

To all Cree of Eeyou Istchee, we wish a Happy and Safe Goose Break!

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Wachiya from SEBJ/HQ

During Goose Break the SEBJ/HQ will do some localised work at the Sarcelle and Eastmain-1-A work grounds, and around some dykes and dams in Eeyou Istchee.

Helicopter's flights linked to that work will still be authorised, but they will avoid flying in the geese hunting zones.

We invite you to be very careful when moving around on the James Bay roads since transportations of heavy loads will happen in the next few weeks. For the security of all, we count on your vigilance and your collaboration.

Paint Hills moved on to the final after a relatively easy win over Castors de Buckingham. Two first-period goals by Atsynia and Silas Katapatuk, whose goal proved to be the winner, lead the way. Third-period insurance goals, scored 16 seconds apart by Tyler Stanton Stewart and Kyle Cheezo, sealed a 4-1 Paint Hills victory and berth in the final. But the Paint Hills squad needed to stage a comeback to clinch top honours in their Championship game versus the Riverains Est Bécancour.

"We were down 2-0 after the second period in the final," said McBrine. "We just told the boys that this is the last game and there is lots of time to score, just go out and shoot, shoot, shoot. "Remember, (the As de Lachenaie) scored against us with just two seconds left and it isn't over until it is over."

Paint Hills responded with their first of four unanswered goals at the 0:09 mark of the third period on a goal by Shanush. Taryn Shashaweskum tied the score just over six minutes into the third period, setting the stage for two unassisted goals 1:27 apart by Cheezo and Shashaweskum, sealing the Riverains fate and giving Paint Hills a 4-2 victory and the gold medal.

When asked if any Wemindji Paint Hills players stood out in his mind at this tournament, McBrine did not hesitate to respond.

"I am proud of all these boys, but I want to talk about what a role model Taryn (Shashaweskum) has been. Taryn has a great attitude on and off the ice: not only in the dressing room and during the game but travelling, in the hotels and on the bus. He is an all-round good kid. I don't know whether I should say this but he had struggled at school, but this year he is at the top of his class academically and has progressed so well."

Over the course of the tournament, Shashaweskum was invited to join a AAA team next season, proving that his hard work and good attitude is paying off.

Wemindji Future Wolves clinch Atom A Gold

It was no less exciting for the Wemindji Future Wolves on their path to the Atom A championship, with three of their four tournament games settled in overtime or shootout. During their first game of the tourney, the Future Wolves twice trailed by five goals before rallying to take a 7-6 third-period lead, and eventually winning 8-7 in overtime on Felix Stephen's fourth goal of the game.

Another four-goal performance by Stephen, as well as four goals from Sebastian Stephen powered the Future Wolves to a 10-8 victory over Archer St-Gabriel. Felix Stephen was again the hero in the Future Wolves' third tournament victory over Aigles Montérégie. After blowing a four-goal lead that had been built on the strength of two quick second-period goals by Evan Kakabat, Stephen punched the Future Wolves ticket to the final with the winner at 5:05 of the overtime frame.

It was more of the same suspense for Future Wolves' fans during the Championship game versus the Waterloo Maroons, as the Future Wolves had to overcome two-goal deficits of 2-0 and 3-1 to force overtime, leading to a shootout to determine a Champion. The decisive goal in the shootout was scored by Felix Stephen, the team's leading scorer in the tournament, while Evan Kakabat, Grant Kakabat and Sebastian Stephen each tallied in regulation.

CONGRATULATIONS CERAMONY

Congratulations to the Cree musical group CerAmony.

In November 2010, in Hamilton, Ontario, they were recognized and won **Best Songwriter** at the Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards 2010.

On March 27, 2011, at the Air Canada Center in Toronto, CerAmony won **Aboriginal Album of the Year** at the 40th Juno Awards for their album entitled *CerAmony*. They have struggled, sacrificed and worked hard for their music and this accomplishment, and their success comes from dedication and perseverance. We have known of their talent and attended their performances, now they have been recognized for their work nationally.

We celebrate with them, and congratulate Matthew A. Iserhoff Jr. and Pakesso Mukash, and all those that supported them throughout the years. For those aspiring to excel in arts or other areas they have a talent or passion for something, your dreams can come true. While this is their first album, we look forward to what the future will bring for them.

We are proud of your accomplishments.

Congratulations!

From Your Family, Friends and Fans!

Standing proud

Guillaume Sylvestre's newest documentary, *Sauvage*, offers an astute portrayal of Aboriginals in Quebec

By Martin Siberok

The poster for the film *Sauvage* says it all. It's a drawing of an Aboriginal man decked out in traditional clothes and a feathered headdress speaking on a cellphone. It's this image that's at the heart of this uncompromising, yet appealing documentary as it delves into the issue of Aboriginals caught between tradition and modernity.

How to deal with this dichotomy of remaining traditional and surviving in a modern world is what prompted Montreal filmmaker Guillaume Sylvestre (best known for his critically acclaimed *Durs à cuire*) to make *Sauvage*. He inadvertently got the idea for his film from his friend Jean-Pierre Laurendeau, the vice president of programming at Canal D, the French-language cable television channel.

"Jean-Pierre said there was a young Huron from Wendake who kept sending him ideas for projects about his community and he asked me to meet him. That's how I met Daniel Picard, who is very intense and talked about his life and all his projects. He was completely different to the image of the Aboriginal that you normally get in the media. I found him fascinating, so I pitched the idea of making a film about him."

An intense, charismatic figure who's always in your face, the fast-talking Picard, 35, is a great guide to understanding the plight of Aboriginals in Quebec. He speaks about the history and confrontation with the white man, about the loss of land and dignity, and about the fight for identity and respect. As he states bluntly to the camera, "This is our home… We got on very well without you."

But Picard also speaks about his personal life that is full of hurt, sadness and violence. His description of witnessing his father beating his mother one night is graphic and unnerving.

"Like many Aboriginals, growing up was tough for Picard, but he never wanted to be a victim of the circumstance of his life," explains Sylvestre. Then he points out, "I didn't have a script, I just followed Daniel with my camera and went with the flow."

Besides Picard, Sylvestre introduces his audience to two other articulate and captivating individuals: Anne Archambault, 56, the Grand Chief of the Viger Maliseet First Nation near Rivière-du-Loup, who is trying to reclaim lost land for her people; and Sabrina Boivin, an 18-year-old Atikamekw high-school student and a single mother living on the Wemotaci reserve, who dreams of going to college and studying management.

All three of these characters, who are strong and represent different generations, share the desire not be victims and not to accept that plight. As Picard points out, "The Elders have to understand the whites have changed." Later on he adds, "If the Elders spend their life whining, the youth will too."

"WHEN YOU SEE THAT THE ABORIGINALS HAVE BEEN HERE FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS, YOU HAVE TO LISTEN TO THEM."

Before starting this project, Sylvestre says he had little knowledge about Aboriginals in Quebec. "Like most Quebecers, I knew very little about them," he confesses. "However making this film has changed my vision of the history and territory of Quebec. When you see that the Aboriginals have been here for thousands of years, you have to listen to them."

When asked what the biggest surprise he had working on the project, Sylvestre says, "You realize that only a few hours outside of Montreal, people live in a very different world. Then you realize that they have been there for more than 5000 years. It makes you humble – you're in their place not in your place."

At one point, Picard and Sylvestre visit Oujé-Bougoumou, where they meet Steve Mianscum, who works as the community's tourism development officer. Mianscum, who is fluent in French, represents a new generation who are equipped to function in the modern world.

"Oujé is amazing," says Sylvestre, "it is quite a contrast to other Aboriginal communities. There is so much money there. It's a real shock to see that up north."

Since the film is shot in French and the three Aboriginals are French speakers, Sylvestre wants to reach out and connect with the Quebec community. "It is a film Aboriginals should see, but most of all Quebecers should see it to get a truthful idea of who Aboriginals are."

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Cree Regional Authority
Administration regional Crie
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Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou/Eenou Istchee)
Grand conseil des Cris (Eeyou/Eenou Istchee)

277 Duke Street, Suite 102
Montreal, Quebec H3C 2M2
Tel: (514) 861-5837 Fax (514) 861-0760
Capital Works and Services

CALL FOR TENDERS
CRA JUSTICE FACILITIES, EASTMAIN

Object

The Cree Regional Authority (the "**CRA**") is requesting bids for the construction of a JUSTICE FACILITY, in the communities of Oujé-Bougoumou, Chisasibi and Waskaganish ("**Call for Tenders**"), the whole in compliance with the By-law Concerning the Procedures and Requirements relating to the Calling of Tenders and Awarding of Construction Contracts (the "**By-Law**") adopted by the CRA pursuant to section 85 of the *Act respecting the Cree Regional Authority*. Relevant extracts of the By-Law will be included in the Contract Documents (as defined in section 5 below).

Queries

For any queries concerning this Call for Tenders, Bidders (as defined in section 3 below) are invited to contact Mr. Norman Gull, Director of Capital Works and Services of the CRA at fax No. (514) 861-0760.

Bidders

The CRA is requesting bids solely from Cree Contractors (as defined in section 12 below) holding all required licences and authorizations to carry out construction activities in Quebec and possessing the capacity to successfully perform the terms and conditions of the contract (the "**Bidders**"). In all cases, the overall contract price, financial stability, experience in performing similar contracts, capabilities and abilities of the concerned Bidder must meet with the approval of the Director of Capital Works.

Sub-Contractors and Suppliers

The Bidders are responsible for the selection of sub-contractors and suppliers, in terms of their solvency and of their bid content. Each Bidder shall indicate in its bid, the names and addresses of proposed sub-contractors and suppliers and a brief description of the work entrusted to them or the materials ordered from them. The Bidders must inform the sub-contractors and suppliers of the conditions of the contract and ensure that they hold the required permits and licenses and meet all other requirements under the contract.

Contract Documents

The plans, specifications, contract documents (including the form of contract which shall be based on Canadian Construction Documents Committee (CCDC) documentation) and other information related to this Call for Tenders (the "**Contract Documents**") may be obtained as of April 15th, 2011, with a non-refundable deposit of $250.00 (certified check to the order of Anicet Tremblay and Serge Harvey, architects) for each copy, from:

Anicet Tremblay and Serge Harvey, Architectes
631 chemin du Pont Taché Nord,
Alma (Québec), G8B 6T4
Project Architect: Anicet Tremblay
Tel: 418- 668-3384
Fax: 418- 668-5999
Email: reception@archharveytremblay.ca

Upon request and at the Bidder's cost, the Contract Documents may be couriered to the Bidder.

Submission of Bids

The bids shall be delivered in sealed envelopes (one original and two copies) addressed to the CRA no later than Tuesday, May 12, 2011 at 3PM (Montreal time) ("**Closing Date**") at:

Cree Regional Authority
277 Duke Street, Montreal (Quebec), H3C 2M2
Attention of: Mr. Norman Gull, Director – Capital Works and Services

Each bid must include a certified cheque in an amount equivalent to 10% of the value of the bid, made payable to the CRA, or by a bid bond in the same amount and valid for a period of sixty (60) days from the Closing Date. This bid bond shall be exchanged at the signing of the contract for performance bonds for wages, materials and services, each one corresponding to 50% of the amount of the contract.

Validity of Bids

Each bid must remain valid and irrevocable for a period of sixty (60) days from the Closing Date.

Commitment

Neither this Call for Tenders nor the Bidder's quotations shall constitute a contract with the CRA. A contract may only be executed upon the written acceptance of the bid of a successful Bidder and award of the contract by the

Executive Committee of the CRA upon the recommendation of the Director of Capital Works in accordance with the terms of the Contract Documents.

Confidential Information

The Contract Documents provided to the Bidder by the CRA are confidential, shall remain the sole property of the CRA and may not be used outside the context of this Call for Tenders without the CRA's prior written consent.

Limitation of Liability

The CRA shall not be responsible or held liable for damages, including without limiting the generality of the foregoing, liability for costs of preparing the bid, loss of profit or loss of property, and each Bidder hereby releases, indemnifies and agrees to hold the CRA harmless from any liability arising from the Bidder's submission of a bid in accordance with this Call for Tenders.

Discretion

The CRA is not obligated to accept the lowest bid or any other bid received.

Definitions

In this Call for Tenders:

12.1 "**Cree Band**" means the Cree Nation of Chisasibi, the Whapmagoostui First Nation, the Cree Nation of Wemindji, the Cree Nation of Eastmain, The Crees of the Waskaganish First Nation, the Cree Nation of Nemaska, the Waswanipi Band, and the Cree Nation of Mistissini, respectively constituted as corporations by the *Cree-Naskapi (of Quebec) Act*, S.C. 1984, c. 18, as well as the Crees of Oujé-Bougoumou (also known as the "Oujé-Bougoumou Cree Nation") represented by the Oujé-Bougoumou Eenuch Association until such time as the Oujé-Bougoumou Band is constituted as a corporation under the *Cree-Naskapi (of Quebec) Act*, S.C. 1984, c. 18, and thereafter the Oujé-Bougoumou Band.

12.2 "**Cree Beneficiary**" means a Cree beneficiary under the meaning of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement whose name appears on the beneficiary list maintained by Quebec.

12.3 "**Cree Contractor**" means an entity authorized to carry on construction activities in Quebec, which is accredited by the Director of Capital Works as a *bona fide* Cree contractor and which answers the following minimum criteria:

a) a corporation i) with more than fifty percent (50%) of the corporation's voting shares beneficially owned by one (1) or more Cree Beneficiary, Cree Band or Cree Entity and ii) the board of directors of which is comprised by more than fifty percent (50%) of Cree Beneficiaries and iii) which has itself carried out construction projects for a period of at least one (1) year;

b) a non-profit corporation i) with more than fifty percent (50%) of the members being Cree Beneficiaries, Cree Bands or Cree Entities and ii) the governing body of which is comprised by more than fifty per cent (50%) of Cree Beneficiaries and iii) which has itself carried out construction projects for a period of at least one (1) year;

c) a sole proprietorship operated by a Cree Beneficiary which has on its own carried out construction projects for a period of at least one (1) year;

d) a Joint Venture, partnership or other similar arrangement between a Cree Contractor as defined in paragraphs a) to c) above and a third party may qualify as a "Cree Contractor" under the terms of this By-law if it is accredited by the Director of Capital Works as meeting the following criteria:

i) the Cree Contractor as defined in paragraphs a) to c) above is entitled to receive at least fifty percent (50%) of the profits of the joint venture, partnership or similar arrangement;

ii) the Cree Contractor as defined in paragraphs a) to c) above invests at least twenty-five percent (25%) of the capital and equipment required by the Joint Venture, partnership or similar arrangement, including working capital;

iii) Cree Beneficiaries will carry out at least twenty-five percent (25%) of the overall man-hours of the labour required under the contract and a binding undertaking to this effect satisfactory to the Director of Capital Works is entered into by the third party and the Cree Contractor as defined in paragraphs a) to c) above.

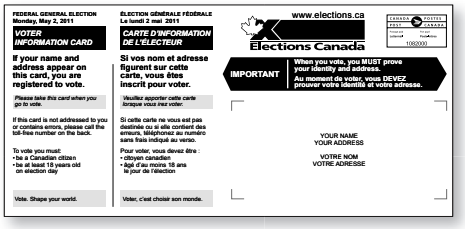
12.4 "**Cree Entity**" means the Grand Council of the Cree (Eeyou Istchee), the CRA (including when acting through the Board of Compensation thereto), the James Bay Eeyou Corporation, the Opimiscow Companee, the Sakami Eeyou Corporation, the Cree Trappers' Association, the Cree Outfitting and Tourism Association, the Cree Native Arts and Crafts Association, the Cree Development Corporation, the Cree villages, a Cree landholding corporation, as well as any other Cree-controlled corporation, enterprise or legal entity referred to in the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement or created pursuant to the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement.

MONDAY, MAY 2, IS ELECTION DAY
LE LUNDI 2 MAI, C'EST JOUR D'ÉLECTION

I CAN CHOOSE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE, I CAN VOTE!

JE PEUX FAIRE UN GESTE QUI COMPTE, JE PEUX VOTER!

DID YOU RECEIVE THIS CARD?


FEDERAL GENERAL ELECTION
Monday, May 2, 2011
VOTER INFORMATION CARD
If your name and address appear on this card, you are registered to vote.
Please take this card when you go to vote.
If this card is not addressed to you or contains errors, please call the toll-free number on the back.
To vote you must:
• be a Canadian citizen
• be at least 18 years old on election day
Vote. Shape your world.

ÉLECTION GÉNÉRALE FÉDÉRALE
Le lundi 2 mai 2011
CARTE D'INFORMATION DE L'ÉLECTEUR
Si vos nom et adresse figurent sur cette carte, vous êtes inscrit pour voter.
Veuillez apporter cette carte lorsque vous irez voter.
Si cette carte ne vous est pas destinée ou si elle contient des erreurs, téléphonez au numéro sans frais indiqué au verso.
Pour voter, vous devez être :
• citoyen canadien
• âgé d'au moins 18 ans le jour de l'élection
Voter, c'est choisir son monde.

www.elections.ca
Elections Canada
CANADA POSTES POSTES CANADA
Postage paid Port payé
Lettermail Poste-lettres
1082000
IMPORTANT
When you vote, you MUST prove your identity and address.
Au moment de voter, vous DEVEZ prouver votre identité et votre adresse.
YOUR NAME
YOUR ADDRESS
VOTRE NOM
VOTRE ADRESSE

YES – then you're registered. The card tells you where and when to vote. Take it with you when you go to vote.

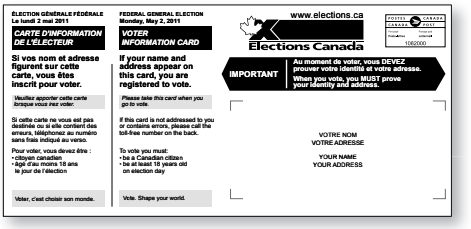
NO – no problem! You can register at your polling station just before voting. You'll find the location and hours of your polling station at www.aboriginalvoter.ca/info or by calling 1-866-323-9104.

TO VOTE, YOU MUST:

- **be a Canadian citizen**
- **be at least 18 years old on election day**
- **prove your identity and address**

For more information on voting, including the list of authorized pieces of identification, check the brochure you received by mail or visit www.aboriginalvoter.ca/info

AVEZ-VOUS REÇU CETTE CARTE?


ÉLECTION GÉNÉRALE FÉDÉRALE
Le lundi 2 mai 2011
CARTE D'INFORMATION DE L'ÉLECTEUR
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Veuillez apporter cette carte lorsque vous irez voter.
Si cette carte ne vous est pas destinée ou si elle contient des erreurs, téléphonez au numéro sans frais indiqué au verso.
Pour voter, vous devez être :
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Voter, c'est choisir son monde.

FEDERAL GENERAL ELECTION
Monday, May 2, 2011
VOTER INFORMATION CARD
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Vote. Shape your world.

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IMPORTANT
Au moment de voter, vous DEVEZ prouver votre identité et votre adresse.
When you vote, you MUST prove your identity and address.
VOTRE NOM
VOTRE ADRESSE
YOUR NAME
YOUR ADDRESS

OUI – Vous êtes donc inscrit. Cette carte vous indique où et quand voter. Ayez-la en main lorsque vous irez voter.

NON – Pas de problème. Vous pouvez vous inscrire à votre bureau de scrutin au moment de voter. Vous trouverez l'emplacement et les heures d'ouverture de votre bureau de scrutin à www.electeurautochtone.ca/info ou en téléphonant au 1-866-323-9104.

POUR VOTER, VOUS DEVEZ:

- **être citoyen canadien;**
- **être âgé d'au moins 18 ans le jour de l'élection;**
- **prouver votre identité et votre adresse.**

Pour obtenir de plus amples renseignements concernant le vote, y compris la liste des pièces d'identité autorisées, consultez le dépliant que vous avez reçu par la poste ou visitez www.electeurautochtone.ca/info

VOTE. SHAPE YOUR WORLD.

VOTER, C'EST CHOISIR SON MONDE.

www.aboriginalvoter.ca/info
1-866-323-9104
TTY 1-800-361-8935
For people who are deaf or hard of hearing

www.electeurautochtone.ca/info
1-866-323-9104
ATS 1-800-361-8935
Pour les personnes sourdes ou malentendantes

Elections Canada

UNDER THE NORTHERN SKY

Easter memories

by Xavier Kataquapit

Over the past hundred years, spring has developed into a religious experience for the Cree. It all started in late winter in March when the local Catholic church reminded us of Lent and its 40 days of fasting. My parents were brought up surrounded and deeply influenced by the Catholic Church from the time they were born. They had been baptized at birth and the first few years of their lives were spent in Catholic residential schools where they were indoctrinated into the religion. Mom and dad made sure to pass this on with reminders of the holy days and they took us to church regularly.

My generation saw things differently. We had not been brought up with the Catholic religion as closely as our parents had been. During the start of Lent, mom and dad suggested we abstain from eating sweets, chocolates and candy to honour this period of the Catholic calendar. We usually lasted for a few days before we began to break our sweet-tooth fast and with some healthy remorse stole away to fall into the curse of candies, bags of potato chips and soft drinks.

Towards the end of Lent and in preparation for Easter, the local stores began stocking Easter chocolates in the shapes of bunnies, chickens and eggs. Mom and dad purchased bags and boxes of these chocolates and reminded us sternly that we could not eat them until Easter Sunday. We children started out trying to be good religious Natives but that lasted about as long as our attempt at observing the start of Lent and in a few days time we were munching on chocolate sweets.

The one critical time we were absolutely forced to give up our indulgences was on Good Friday, the holiest day in the Christian calendar. Mom and dad hid the chocolates and served us a meal of fried fish and potatoes because we could not eat meat. On Saturday we were back to our sneaking ways and by Sunday we celebrated by gobbling down what remained of the sweet milk-chocolate bunnies, solid dark-chocolate eggs, chocolate shell eggs with creamy fillings, and coloured soft and hard candies.

None of us ever really understood the symbolism of rabbits and eggs at Easter. We just took it as a sign that it was time to eat chocolate and lots of it. For us, the Easter Bunny was as mysterious and strange as Santa Claus at Christmas time. We also considered the religious ceremonies bizarre but somehow necessary if we all wanted to go to heaven.

We lived in the remote, mushkeg wilderness of the James Bay coast so it was difficult to imagine a world of desert landscapes, ancient villages and apostles and prophets wandering from town to town, when we could not even easily travel in our world. Our past, traditions, culture and spirituality had nothing to do with all these symbols from the Middle East and more recently from the advertising agencies of candy companies.

Our parents did their expected duty to try to bring us up as good Catholics and taught us all the necessary prayers and they took us to church regularly. By the time I was eight, I had become an altar boy and joined in the services assisting the priest. This was easy for me as our priest, Father Vezina, was a very kind and modest man who had the good of the community in his heart.

I took part in all major religious holidays throughout the year. But Easter was different in that it was a solemn period of prayer and worship that commemorated the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The church was stripped of decorative drapes and images and left bare.

On Good Friday and Holy Saturday, mass took place in the late afternoon and it was a solemn and dramatic scene to behold extended prayer services as the golden daylight streamed through the tall windows into the church. You would almost expect Charlton Heston to appear as Moses. As an altar boy I worked long and hard and I can remember feeling very guilty after kneeling in prayer and dozing off during some longer masses.

In my role as an altar boy, I was more or less part of the theatre of this religion. Sometimes the customs and imagery shocked me. Much of the graphic illustrations I saw showed so much tragedy, violence and sadness.

Spring and Easter brings back a lot of memories. For a hundred years, our people's lives revolved around the church. Missionaries, nuns, brothers and priests gave us our education, our medical care, worked closely with the European fur-trading companies and, on top of all that, they managed our spiritual beliefs.

We were smothered in this religious way of thinking and yet it was not all bad as we also gained a lot of knowledge of the outside world and in fact ended up preserving our language in a written form called syllabics. I recall the relief we all felt as our duties to the church wrapped up on Easter Sunday and it was now time to live our lives and move out onto the land. The geese were on their way and we would not go hungry thanks to their return. The church was left behind in town.

Assembly of the First Nations
of Quebec and Labrador
Assemblée des Premières Nations
du Québec et du Labrador

Federal Election:

DEBATE ON FIRST NATION ISSUES

Wendake, April 14, 2011 - The Assembly of First Nations of Quebec and Labrador (AFNQL) is planning a debate within the present Federal election campaign. "The next government of Canada cannot escape the major issues brought forward by First Nations. We must know where the political parties stand as of now. We have questions, we want answers ", stated the Chief of the AFNQL, Ghislain Picard.

The Chiefs of the five main political parties have received a formal invitation to participate in this debate that will be held on Wednesday, April 27, at 7 p.m. in the auditorium of the Olympic Tower, in Montreal.

The public is also invited to participate by submitting questions to the candidates by email at apnql.afnql@gmail.com or on the Facebook page "Premières Nations Québec-Labrador First Nations".

Resignation of André Forbes demanded

The Chief of the AFNQL takes this opportunity to state that André Forbes has to withdraw from the electoral process. "Out of respect for our peoples and the respect for democracy, I ask André Forbes to immediately withdraw his candidature", stated AFNQL Chief Ghislain Picard.

About the AFNQL

The AFNQL is a regional organization that unites the 43 Chiefs of the First Nations of Quebec and Labrador. For more information: www.apnql-afnql.com.

APNQL / AFNQL
250, Place Chef Michel Laveau, suite 201, Wendake, Qc G0A 4V0
Tél: 418.842.5020 fax: 418.842.2660 www.apnql-afnql.com

CLASSIFIEDS

BIRTHDAYS

We would like to wish a happy 2nd birthday to our baby boy Davidson on April 27th, 2011. We love you boy! From Mom and Dad (Rebecca Kawapit WHAP)

I would like to send birthday wishes to the following people: Tristan-John Snowboy & Emery-John Rupert on April 9th, 2011 and Brent Masty on April 16th, 2011. I hope you guys have fun! Love always, from Rebecca (WHAP)

I want to wish my funny son a happy birthday on April 23rd, 2011. Derrick Mianscum from Ouje-Bougoumou not too long ago you were so young playing with toys and now you're a youth and you play the drums! lol But your attitude has always stayed with you, you're funny and you make your family laugh. We're never bored when we're with you. Love the way you are my son and enjoy your special day! We love you so much! From, Mom & Dad (Leona and Peter Mianscum)

On May 25th, 2011 it's going to be a special day for a very special cute boy named Shimun Lameboy, who will be celebrating his 2nd birthday with lots of fun, games and especially his favorite ice cream cake! Bonne fete mon amour, mommy and daddy

To Malachi Ronnie Salt.I fell in love with you when I first felt you move in my stomach. You've filled my heart with joy and laughter when I first held you in my arms. I thank the Lord for blessing me another little boy. Now that you'll be turning 1 on April 26th, 2011 and you're going to experience new things, learn new words, and begin to walk. Mommy and daddy will always love you.

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Where to get help: bilingual, anonymous, confidential and free phone services, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Missing Children's Network: They'll help you find kids who have run away or disappeared. 514-843-4333.

Kid's Help Phone Line: 1-800-668-6868 (www.kidshelpphone.ca)

Youth helpline: 1-800-263-2266 (www.teljeunes.com)

Parent helpline: 1-800-361-5085 (www.parenthelpline.ca)

Drugs: help and reference: 1-800-265-2626 (www.drogueaidereference.qc.ca)

Gambling: help and reference: 1-800-265-2626 (www.info-reference.qc.ca)

S.O.S. Conjugal Violence: 1-800-363-9010 (www.sosvioleenceconjugale.com)

Health and Sexuality resources center: 1-888-855-7432 (Monday to Friday, 9 am to 5 pm) (www.criss.org)

Gay Helpline: 1-888-505-1010 (Monday to Friday, 8 am to 3 am and Saturday-Sunday, 11 am to 3 am)

The Native Women's Shelter of Montreal: 1-866-403-4688. (www.nwsm.info)

Suicide Action Québec: 1-866-277-3553

Residential School Survivors: A 24 hour toll-free crisis line is available to provide immediate emotional assistance and can be reached 24-hours a day, seven days a week: 1-866-925-4419. Other support services and information for survivors is available on the AFN website at: http://www.afn.ca/residentialschools/resources.html

CLASSIFIEDS ARE FREE FOR EVERYONE

PERSONALS, BIRTHS, ANNIVERSARIES, MESSAGES, ETC.

How to get your info to us :

By Fax : 514-278-9914
By email:
Beesum@beesum-communications.com
On the web go to:
wwwnationnews.ca
and click on "Place a classified"
Snail Mail:
4529 Clark Suite 403, Montréal, Qc, H2T 2T3

If you wish to add a picture, it is possible for $10.00.
Send money order
Contact us at 514-272-3077 for more details.

All Classified will be reviewed;
any improper content may be withheld.

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Toll free: 1-877-525-7838 • Roadside Assistance 1-800-465-7587
www.hondadevaldor.ca

HONDA

The all-new 2012 Civic is coming April 20.

How do you remain Canada's top-selling car 13 years in a row? By continually innovating and focusing on what drivers want.

The next generation Civic is almost here, and it's the latest result of our drive to make things even better. It's got sleeker lines and more aggressive styling. Improved fuel-efficiency with Honda Eco-Assist™ technology.

And it showcases our continual emphasis on safety, with Vehicle Stability Assist™ (VSA®) as standard equipment.

Come see us and go for a test-drive of this new 2012 Civic and you could win a 2-year lease!

2011 CR-V 0.9%

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Patrick Carbonneau
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Marie-France Martel
BUSINESS MANAGER

Raymond Larochelle
USED CAR DEPARTMENT MANAGER

Julie St-Yves
SALES SECRETARY

Etienne Morin
SALES REP

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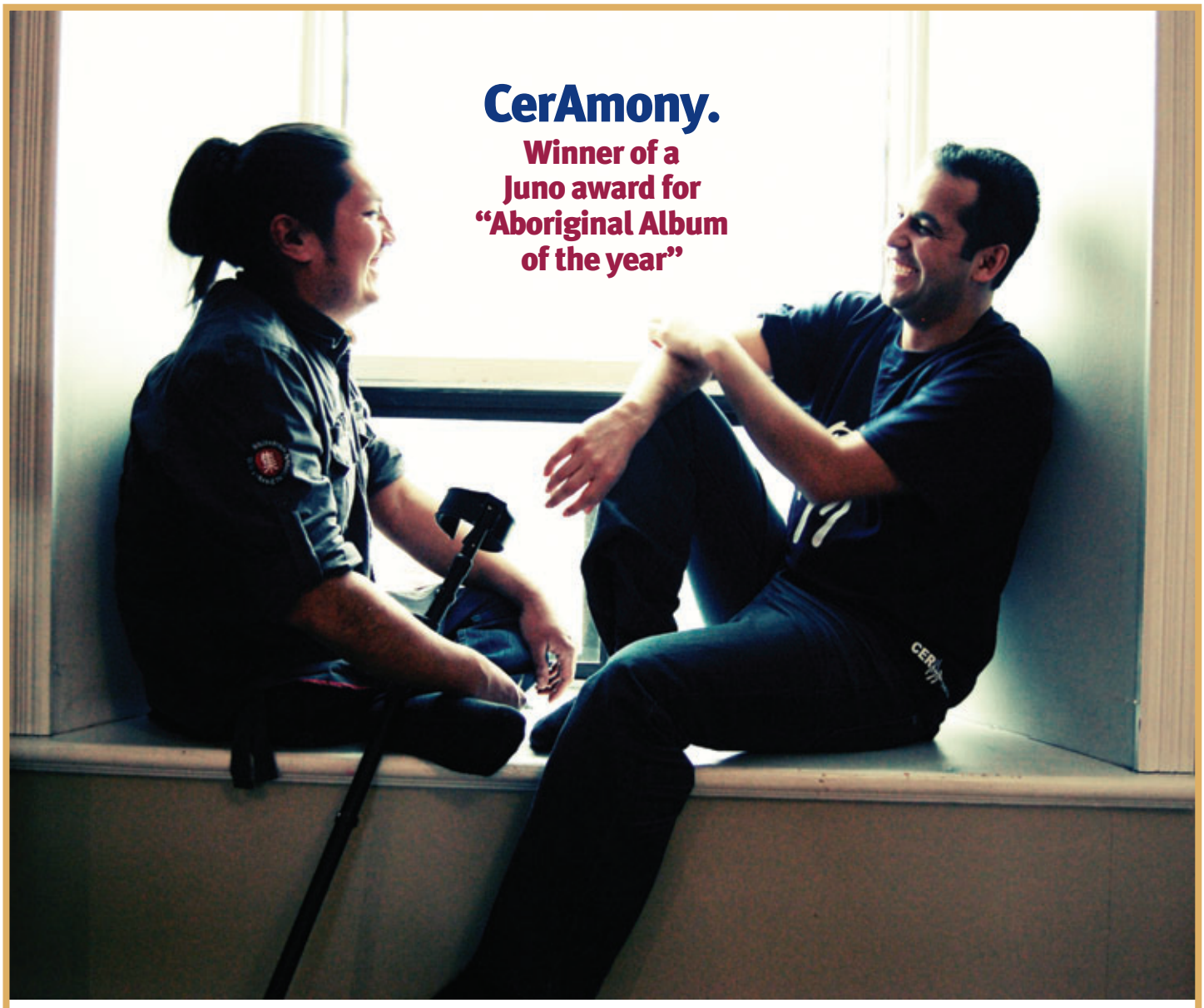

Congratulations to Matthew A. Iserhoff and Pakesso Mukash for their amazing accomplishment with their debut album.

CerAmony spreads the message and identity of the Cree people of James Bay and inspires those that still speak the language and live the culture.

Hard work, determination and passion for music has brought CerAmony to a level of national recognition by winning a Juno award in the category: Aboriginal Album of the Year 2011.

You truly inspire many! We are extremely proud of you and congratulate you on your major achievement!

Cree Nation of Mistissini

From the Niskamoon TEHQ Program
Students to the people of Iyiyiu Aschi,

we wish you a safe and plentiful Goose Break!

ᐅᐦᒋ ᐊᓂᑖ ᓂᔅᑯᒧᐃᓐ TEHQ ᒋᔅᑯᑎᒧᐧᐊᑭᓂᒃ ᐋ ᐄᐦᑎᒧᐧᐊᒃ ᐄᔨᔨᐤᐦ ᐊᓂᑖ ᐄᔨᔨᐤ ᐊᔅᑭᐦᐦᒃ,

ᓂᐱᑯᐧᐦᔨᐦᑖᓈᓐ ᒫ ᐃᔭᐧᑲᒥᓯᔭᑯ ᑭᔭ ᒥᔅᑏ ᒫ ᒥᓂᐦᐅᔭᑯ ᒫ ᓈᒋᐱᔭᓱᐧᐊᔭᑯ!

Our world is a changing one and we recognize this. We are at an important turning point with one foot stepping lightly into the acceptance of the modern world and the other foot firmly rooted in the traditions of our parents, grandparents, and ancestors.

We are proud to be students representing the Cree Nation. But mostly, we are proud to be Iyiyiu and proud to have the honour and privilege to hunt with our families during this spring season. We hope that many of you will also be joining your families and friends on the territory. Please be safe on the roads and waterways!

ᐊᔨᐦᐧᐊ ᐊᑎ ᐃᔅᐱᐧᔨᐤ ᒫᐧᑲᓐ ᒥᓯᐦᑖᔅᑭᒥᐧᐊ ᐊᔅᑭᐦᐧᐊ ᑭᔭ ᒫᒃ ᐋᐅᐧᑯ ᐆ ᓈᔅᑑᓂᒥᐦᑯᐧ ᐊᓄᐦᐧᐊ ᐆ ᐋ ᐃᓯᓈᑯᓯᔨᐦᑯ, ᓈᔅᑖᐧᐊ ᒋᔅᑎᒫᐧᐃᓐ ᐋ ᐄᐧᐊ ᐅᑎᐦᐧᐊᒫᔨᐦᑯ, ᐋᐅᐧᑯ ᐊᓐ ᐋ ᐅᑎᓂᒥᐦᑯ ᒫᐧᑲᓐ ᐊᓄᐦᐧᐊ ᐋ ᐄᐧᐊ ᐅᔅᑲᒃ ᐋ ᐄᐧᐊ ᐋᐱᒋᐦᐋᑭᓂᐧᐃᒃ ᑭᔭ ᐊᓐ ᑯᑎᒃ ᐋ ᐄᐧᐊ ᑎᑯᔅᒫᔨᐦᑯ ᐊᓂᑖ ᐄᔨᔨᐤ ᐃᔨᐦᐧᑐᐧᐃᓂᐦᐧᐊ ᒃ ᐄᐧᐊ ᒋᔅᒫᔨᐦᑎᐦᐧᐊ ᒋᓐᒋᐦᐧᐄᑯᓂᐅᒃ, ᑭᔭ ᒋᒋᔅᔨᔨᐦᒥᓂᐅᒃ ᐄᐧᐊ ᐅᑖᐦᐧᐊ.

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Hydro Québec

ᐃᔨᔨᐤ ᒋᔅᑯᑕᒪᒐᐅᓐ
Cree School Board
Commission scolaire Crie

2 Lakeshore Road,
Nemaska, Québec J0Y 3B0
www.niskamoon.org